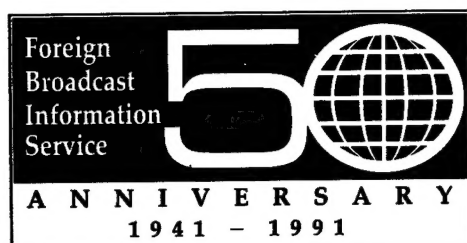


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CONTENTS

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NEAR EAST

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Egyptians To Aid in Kuwaiti Well Reconstruction [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 8 Nov]	1
Kuwait, Egypt Create Joint Holding Company [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 23 Oct]	1
Status of Egyptian Workers in Kuwait Reviewed [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 30 Oct]	1
UAE Minister Discusses Economic Ties To Egypt [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 14 Nov]	3

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Analysis of Bush's Address at Conference [Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI 2 Nov]	4
Gazans Comment on Opening of Conference [Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI 2 Nov]	5
Faysal al-Husayni on Status of Jerusalem [Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR al-SIYASI 2 Nov]	6
Hebron Leaders Discuss Infrastructure Projects [Jerusalem AL-NAHAR 23 Oct]	7
Editorial Claims Delegation PLO Body [Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI 2 Nov]	8

EGYPT

Mubarak Seen Considering Successorship [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Oct]	10
Peace Conference Termed 'Great Arab Success' [AL-MUSAWWAR 8 Nov]	10
Broad NDP Leadership Changes Expected [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Oct]	13
Egypt, Philippines Sign Trade Agreement [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Nov]	14
Egyptian Officials Discuss Trade With Soviets [AL-AHRAM-AL-DUWALI 13 Nov]	14
Sidqi Comments on Economic Reforms [AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 8 Nov]	15
Minister Announces Tourism Income Statistics [AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 5 Nov]	17
Official Provides Tax Revenue Figures [AL-AKHBAR 6 Nov]	17
Minister Notes Increase in Oil, Gas Production [AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 5 Nov]	18
Cotton Export Earnings Dropped Last Year [Doha AL-SHARQ 22 Oct]	18
Aluminum Plant Contract Signed With France [AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 5 Nov]	18
Decrease in Cotton Production Analyzed [AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI 31 Oct]	19
Officials Call For Arab Nuclear Progress, Secrecy [Amman SHIHAN 26 Oct]	20

JORDAN

Hebrew TV Program To Target Israelis [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Dec]	23
Paper Criticizes 'Muhammad's Army' Trial [AL-RIBAT 22 Oct]	23
Report Details Housing Projects, Scarcity [London AL-SHARQ-ALAWSAT 11 Nov]	25

KUWAIT

Minutes of 29 Oct National Assembly Meeting [London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 30 Oct]	27
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

LEBANON

Phalangist-Lebanese Forces Differences Viewed [London AL-HAYAH 10 Oct]	31
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

SUDAN

Elected Bodies To Replace Salvation Committees [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Oct]	32
Opposition Condemns Split, Ruptures Self	33

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Egyptians To Aid in Kuwait Well Reconstruction

92AF0138B Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
8 Nov 91 p 5

[Article: "Al-Banbi Discusses Egypt's Participation in Restoring Kuwaiti Wells With Kuwait's Oil Minister"]

[Text] Kuwait, MENA—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, reviewed at his meeting yesterday with Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Dr. Hammud al-Ruqbah the possibilities of Egyptian oil companies participating in operations to rehabilitate the destroyed Kuwaiti oil wells and to restore them to production, and also to restore Kuwait's oil terminals.

A rig belonging to the Egyptian Drilling Company will arrive in Kuwait shortly to take part with rigs of the Kuwait-owned Santa Fe Company in operations to drill new wells. Moreover, an Egyptian oil delegation will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow to discuss the details of cooperation between the two countries in the coming phase.

In a related development, Dr. al-Banbi met yesterday with Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir, UAE [United Arab Emirates] Oil Minister Yusuf 'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, and Syrian Oil Minister Tanyus Jayb [as published, presumably Matanyus Habib] to discuss technical cooperation in oil industries in the coming phase and to exchange views on a number of oil issues that are of common interest.

Kuwait, Egypt Create Joint Holding Company

92AF0138A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic
23 Oct 91 p 4

[Article: "Joint Holding Company With Capital of \$500 Million; Settling Status of Egyptians in Kuwait and Operating Shipping Line Between Two Countries"]

[Text] Within the context of the economic bilateral conflicts [as published] and of bolstering Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in all spheres, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who is currently visiting Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, held their first round of talks yesterday.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has announced that the talks touched on the status of Egyptian workers in Kuwait, that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah has stressed that they are accorded the best treatment, that the door is open to them and to Egyptian companies to work in Kuwait, that the problems raised by the Egyptians have been solved, and that the next few days will witness firm Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in all economic and commercial spheres. Dr. Sidqi added that President Husni Mubarak has issued clear instructions on freeing up Gulf and Kuwaiti investments in Egypt and eliminating all obstacles facing them. He has also stressed that a Kuwaiti holding

company will be established in Egypt in the next few days with a capital of \$500 million, and that an Egyptian-Kuwaiti airline company will also be established. This is in addition to studying the creation of a shipping line between the two countries.

The prime minister further said that the holding company, which will be founded in Egypt, will invest in all production and economic areas, especially in land reclamation, industrial and tourist projects, housing and development, and in all kinds of financial investment. This company will enjoy all benefits and exemptions given by the investment law to similar companies in Egypt. Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-Sabah has noted the excellent relations binding Egypt and Kuwait and emanating from Egypt's and President Mubarak's position on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and from Egypt's provision of military, political, and information aid to Kuwait. He said that great credit goes to Egypt in liberating Kuwait.

Kuwait's crown prince announced that there are instructions from Kuwait's emir to offer all the necessary facilities to Egyptians workers in Kuwait. Direct instructions have also been issued to Kuwaiti ministers to facilitate their work. He also said that Egyptian firms will have a role in the area of building and reconstruction.

Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of reconstruction and new communities, has stated that the system of joint cooperation between Egyptian companies and Kuwaiti circles is now under discussion. It is expected that Egyptian firms will be accorded the same treatment given to Gulf companies.

Status of Egyptian Workers in Kuwait Reviewed

92AF0138C Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
30 Oct 91 p 5

[Article by Sharif Jaballah: "Harvest of Dr. Sidqi's Visit to Kuwait: Problem of Dues Owed Egyptian Workers in Kuwaiti Public Sector Ended"]

[Text] A prominent official accompanying the Egyptian prime minister on his recent visit to Kuwait has characterized the outcome of the visit, saying: "The visit is a political accomplishment by all criteria. It has accomplished numerous political and economic objectives. Agreement has been reached on solutions for numerous problems facing Egyptian workers in Kuwait." The official added, "Despite this, there are some pending issues that are now being discussed by Egyptian and Kuwaiti technicians and ministers so that decisions can be made on them in the near future."

Here end the Egyptian official's words on Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's three-day visit to Kuwait. But what has not ended are the dozens of questions raised by tens of thousands of Egyptians who have worked, or are working, in Kuwait on how to get their old dues and on the possibility of their return to the old jobs they held before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Moreover, what would be the status

in the government and the Kuwaiti public sector are entitled, as soon as these workers present the required certificates attesting that they have paid the sums they owe for electricity, water, telephone bills, and similar certificates from banks. The same will be applied to Egyptians working in banks.

If the problem of the dues of Egyptians working in the Kuwaiti Government and public sector has found its way toward a prompt and decisive solution, then the problem of Egyptian workers in the Kuwaiti private sector is still pending, and is the subject of discussion and examination. Kuwaiti business owners assert that they cannot afford to pay the sums to which the workers are entitled for their work in the past because of the damage inflicted on their commercial establishments. In this regard, numerous proposals have been submitted to overcome this problem, including a proposal that Egyptians working in Kuwait resort to the courts to get their dues. This solution was suggested by Dr. Butrus Ghali in a quick interview that he has given. Another proposal is that these Egyptians be compensated, according to 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'udi, the economic adviser to the prime minister, from the UN Reparations Fund created for this purpose.

The third aspect of the problem of Egyptian dues is that the Kuwaiti authorities had postponed disbursing the end-of-service compensation for Egyptians who have returned to their work since the liberation with new contracts. Kuwait has viewed the end-of-service compensation for their work prior to the invasion as something that is postponed and that will not be paid unless the contract is terminated. However, the Kuwaiti side has promised to examine this issue and to take prompt steps to disburse these compensations.

Another important point agreed to by the Kuwaiti authorities is letting Egyptian teachers working in Kuwait bring in their families, provided that this is done in the next three months. Moreover, the Kuwaiti authorities are in the process of releasing 500 jailed Egyptians who constitute part of the workers who have arrived in Kuwait on no-objection permits sold to them by an Egyptian middleman. These people are unemployed, and this has compelled them to stand in the streets in search of work.

Importing individuals to work raises the issue of making it a prerequisite that any worker going to Kuwait must have a work contract so that he can be protected.

If the problems of Egyptians working in Kuwait have constituted an important focal point in the bilateral talks between the two countries, then strengthening economic and trade cooperation has been no less important. In this regard, it has been agreed to strengthen trade exchange through a number of axes. The first axis, according to Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa, is the establishment in Kuwait of a permanent Egyptian trade center, which will be allowed to sell to consumers directly and to import for itself.

UAE Minister Discusses Economic Ties To Egypt
92AF0134A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
14 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Economy and Commerce Minister Sa'id al-Ghubash; place and date not given; "Increasing Confidence in Egyptian Economy, New Policies in Right Direction; Regional Groupings No Substitute for Arab Economic Integration"]

[Text] In this brief, candid interview, Sa'id al-Ghabbash, the minister of economy and commerce of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], sheds light on bilateral Egyptian-UAE relations, the volume and development of inter-Arab trade, whether or not the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is able to dispense with Arab economic unity, and his view on the crisis of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI].

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] In the opening session of the joint Egyptian-UAE committee, you stated that there has been a decline in trade averages between the two countries. How do you explain that? What governs UAE investment in Egypt? What governs the movement of Arab capital in the Arab world?

[al-Ghabbash] An absolute number must not be accepted as a result. An absolute number can be understood as reflecting a development in a given period. If the statistics provide no good cause for optimism, this can be attributed to the circumstances experienced by the Gulf countries this past year as the result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its effect on trade. However, we hope that, in the current climate, there will be a new view toward strengthening trade and cooperation between Egypt and investors in the UAE.

Regarding investment, all capital seeks two basic elements: investment yield and security. Capital will undoubtedly flow to wherever these two elements are available. The new economic policies being pursued by Egypt are steps in the right direction, as reflected by the increased flow of capital to Egypt, especially from investors in the GCC countries.

Regarding the movement of Arab capital in the Arab world, let me pose a question to you: Do all Egyptian investors invest their capital in Egypt? Do all Arabs in any Arab country invest their capital in their countries? The answer is that if they realize a return, they will invest. I believe that we must provide an investment climate, especially given that the markets of Europe, America, and the Far East are open to us. In order for Arab investors to invest their capital in a country, it is not enough for that country to be Arab. Other conditions must also be available to attract this capital.

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] According to statistics, a growing number of Egyptians are investing in Egypt, and their investments have increased from millions to billions.

not abrogate the legitimacy born on the debris of World War II, but ignores basic parts of it. America, in its international era, is thus steering away from international legitimate authority as Palestinians and Arabs understand it. This is what was clearly apparent in his speech.

Justice, Security in Speech

One notes that the American president focused on justice and security in his speech, which must be the basis of the settlement. He linked security and justice dialectally, but again in a new sense not linked to the international legitimate authority.

If one sets this concept in the context of the Palestinian and Arab view, theoretically it agrees almost completely; but from the practical, political point of view, as expressed in Bush's speech, things are quite different.

Although he focused on Israel's right to security, which initially means the Arab world's acceptance of Israel, and indirectly linked security to redrawing the political boundaries, he referred only ambiguously and partially to the Palestinian people and their rights. His reference was more humanitarian than political. He did not refer clearly to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Although he spoke in his speech about a temporary autonomous government for the Palestinians, he left the door wide open to ambiguity about this government's role and authority in the transition period. He clearly announced that the final arrangement, or even a general outline of what it will be, has not yet been decided, while at the same time he stressed Israel's security.

When he discussed the Israeli people, he discussed the security factor clearly; when he discussed the Palestinian people, he discussed the issue as no more than one of humanitarianism and suffering, even though he referred to granting the Palestinian people meaningful control over their lives and destiny.

In discussing the issue of Palestinian refugees in exile, the American president thoroughly isolated the issue from the national political cause of the Palestinian people. He placed the issue in a regional context bypassing the bilateral issue between Israel and the Arabs or between Israel and the Palestinian people.

While this American position is in overall conflict with the Palestinian and Arab position, which sees the refugee issue as a purely national Palestinian issue linked to the right of return espoused by the PLO with Arab agreement, it is in complete agreement with the Israeli position.

Positive Signs

Nevertheless, Bush's speech contained a number of positive signs for the Palestinian people—particularly the need to respect their hopes and aspirations in any solution and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to control their lives and future.

The American speech has placed the Palestinian delegation in Madrid face to face with the American position, which is changing in a desirable way so as to harmonize with Palestinian demands to a reasonable extent.

Gazans Comment on Opening of Conference

92AE0080C Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI
in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 39

[Article: "Opening Speeches at Conference as Seen by Gaza Personalities"]

[Text]

Dr. Dhuni al-Wahidi (Gaza)

"The two international speeches were a restatement of the American and Soviet positions supporting the search for solutions based on international legitimacy. However, the American president avoided mentioning the phrase 'the Palestinian people,' except in two places, and merely alluded to 'Palestinians' without the definite article. This could mean that the American position is retreating from an attempt to find a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian people. On the other hand, Egypt's speech justifiably touched our minds and emotions. It truly expressed most of the Palestinian principles, such as self-determination and the status of Jerusalem. We value this highly and hope that the true meaning of self-determination will be clearly understood as the right to return and to establish a Palestinian state."

Professor Fayiz Abu-Rahmah (Gaza)

"The speeches were good. I would mention especially the speech of the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa. The problem remains the Middle East problem. It requires enlightened, moderate thinking that can resolve it. We hope this meeting will help all parties follow a moderate policy far removed from extremism. Thus we shall reach hoped-for results."

Al-Haj Hashim 'Ata al-Shawwa (Gaza)

"We hope that God makes this conference successful in solving our problem justly; that will be the crowning touch. The main opening speeches were good, but the fact is that no one can say what is going to happen; so I am still not very optimistic. The conference could fail because of Israel's stubborn position. Chances for success and failure seem about equal. The speech by 'Amr Musa was good and favorable to the Palestinian side."

Lawyer Khalid al-Qudrah (Khan Yunus)

"I listened to the opening speeches, especially what Presidents Bush and Gorbachev said. Their opening speeches contained general principles. They did not shun the main demands of the Palestinian delegation,

part. This was said in a special interview by AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI's special correspondent to the conference. Part of the interview follows.

[al-Habazi] Are you optimistic?

[al-Husayni] Naturally I am optimistic. We will demand the application of international law, although it is not an easy period.

[al-Habazi] What is your comment on the demonstrations in support and in opposition within the country?

[al-Husayni] Given the difficult choice we face at a moment like this, naturally there is support and there is opposition. We continue to think that the support and the opposition are still within a healthy democratic framework. We hope they continue to be.

[al-Habazi] What might happen if Israel refuses to stop settlement?

[al-Husayni] I think Israel's refusal to stop settlement would be a torpedoing operation and a mine laid in the road of the process. In every step we take in this process it is as if we were walking a mine field that must be crossed for the sake of peace. These obstacles and mines—for example the settlements—must be removed.

[al-Habazi] How do you expect Arab support for the Palestinian delegation to be?

[al-Husayni] From our contacts with various Arab states, especially Jordan and Egypt, we can say that they will support us to the utmost extent on the various levels.

[al-Habazi] What about Syria?

[al-Husayni] Syria is also embarking on a joint battle with us. Coordination with Syria has to date (30 October) been limited to the five-member committee. We hope there will also be bilateral coordination.

[al-Habazi] Could the Palestinian delegation accept that Jerusalem continue to remain united?

[al-Husayni] Let us say that we want our Palestinian capital to be East Jerusalem. Jerusalem could be an open city. There could be coordination and cooperation between the two parts of the city, but we have sovereignty over the Arab part.

[al-Habazi] It is said that Shamir will try to apply self-rule according to your talks with Moshe Amirav.

[al-Husayni] According to the talks with Moshe Amirav, there may be a certain idea that Shamir wants to reach. We reached a certain stage. We reached the form of the state. We had a discussion about only two subjects on which we reached no agreement: defense and foreign relations. We completed the rest of the subjects and were tending toward the formation of a complete state, including legislation—one that would include the city of Jerusalem.

[al-Habazi] On what basis?

[al-Husayni] On the basis that it would be a city including two capitals of two countries.

[al-Habazi] What is the minimum that the Palestinians could accept for self-government?

[al-Husayni] We are talking about a transitional period leading to an independent Palestinian state.

Hebron Leaders Discuss Infrastructure Projects

92AE0070A Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
23 Oct 91 p 3

[Article by Jamal al-Shuwayki: "Announcement Regarding Permit To Build Cement, Iron Factories; Issues Are Telephones, Schools, Taxes, [Family] Reunification, Central Market"]

[Text] In the office of the mayor of Hebron, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zir, a meeting was held on the morning of 22 October 1991, attended by Hebron's governor, Col. Eli Grossman, and a number of his advisors; Hebron's deputy mayor, Khalil 'Uthman Shahin; members of the Municipal Council; al-Hajj Hashim 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, president of Hebron's Chamber of Commerce; Muhammad Rashid al-Ja'bari, director of education and training; 'Abd-al-Fattah Dudin, mayor of Dawrah; Isma'il Abu-Hamid, mayor of Yattah; Dr. Hafiz 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, head of the Friends of the Sick Society; and a number of dignitaries, merchants, industrialists, and directors of organizations and associations. A number of tradesmen from Hebron's central market also attended.

To begin the meeting, the governor of Hebron reviewed the vital projects in which the Israeli administration has actively participated, such as constructing several schools; opening roads; establishing administration offices in the areas of [Idhna], Dawrah, and Yattah; digging wells to supply all residents with water; and the administration's assistance in granting work permits to the citizens, reuniting families, etc.

He then said: "The economy in the governorate must be developed in order to absorb labor and lessen the load on workers going to far-off places outside the city. The administration has given the green light to build a cement factory in Hebron, along with another permit for an iron factory.

"The administration will give the necessary easements to all those who invest in constructing the factories, and will endeavor to grant them work permits. It will also grant reunification to each investor abroad who wants to invest his funds here." The governor said that the income tax will be lowered from 13 to 5 percent as of 1 January 1992. Moreover, the civilian administration will grant a permit to every citizen to enter Israel."

The governor also spoke about assistance to build playgrounds for schools and the opening of other schools in

The PLO is not the just Palestinian leadership in Tunis, not just the National Council, not just Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]; it is the Palestinian people—in the diaspora as in the occupied territory. It is the PLO in Tulkarm as it is in Tunis. As Ezer Weizman said a few months ago, as other Israeli officials and non-officials have admitted, and as is the reality, the PLO is not a body of gelatin, or a superstructure, or a leadership without a base, as the Bush administration seems to be trying to convince itself.

The Palestinian delegation attending the Madrid conference would not have gone to the conference—it would not have been formed, nor would there have been any dialogue with Baker—had the Palestinian leadership rejected it or not agreed to it, and if the leadership had not formed it. There would have been no attendance or participation in the Madrid conference if the PLO, with its leadership and base, had refused to deal with the American political process that Bush led in order to arrive at the Madrid conference.

That being the case, we are not deceiving ourselves when we say that the Palestinian delegation in Madrid is the PLO delegation and the delegation of the Palestinian people wherever they are—in the occupied territory and in the diaspora. This is not diminished by the fact that the delegation is from the occupied territory. The Palestinian people, in its essence, personality, and being is not subject to residence considerations, tribal considerations, or any other considerations. It is subject to but one consideration—that the PLO is its political entity and that any Palestinian represents this entity, wherever he may be—in the occupied territory or in the Palestinian diaspora.

Those who are deceiving themselves are the members of the Bush administration and the Shamir government, when they see in this delegation a delegation isolated from the PLO or think that it represents the Palestinian people only in the occupied territory; for national affiliation, with all that it implies in terms of a single people and single goals, is stronger than every official and propagandistic coloration and stronger than any protocols.

When the PLO—or more precisely, the Palestinian leadership—approved (as it did) the Palestinian delegation that went to Madrid, this was merely a part of Palestinian diplomacy—a tactic aimed at transcending the historical moment through which our Palestinian cause and the Arab region in general are passing. There was no bypassing the principles of nationalism, especially complete withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967 and our people's right to self-determination on their land.

The realization of national goals, among them preservation of Palestinian identity and selfhood in this historical period of radical regional and international changes visible to everyone, forces the Palestinian leadership to resort to this difficult tactic in order to realize national goals and emerge from this delicate and difficult historical moment.

The Palestinian delegation to Madrid, in the form in which it came to be, cannot be a type of alternative leadership or of Palestinian retreat from the sole legitimate leadership of the PLO and its leaders. Anyone who deludes himself into believing that the delegation, despite its conditions, is a type of alternative leadership should always face the fact that this delegation in its smallest details is part of the PLO. The alternative leadership about which the Shamir government and others dream is an illusion or fantasy that has ensconced itself in historically and politically blind minds.

Any reasonable person understands that no alternative leadership can emerge, no matter what harsh and difficult conditions confront our Palestinian people. He understands that the Palestinian delegation to Madrid is the PLO delegation. He understands that no one thinks of taking any Palestinian position without the Palestinian leadership. The Bush administration fully understands this. It is stupidity to image for a minute that it does not understand that the Palestinian delegation is the PLO delegation. The Bush administration accepted the Palestinian delegation—compelled, because it had no other choice.

When we say clearly that the Palestinian delegation is the PLO delegation, America, which understands that the delegation is the PLO delegation, must also understand that the official, public, and direct presence of the PLO in the negotiations and the solution is implicit and inescapable if America is serious about continuing the political process to a solution after the conference. America must understand that any attempt to impair the PLO's active role will be doomed in advance to failure.

The American administration seems to understand this. It understands that it is impossible to keep the PLO away in practice and that the present Palestinian position cannot turn into an alternative leadership to the PLO, even though this fantasy doubtlessly tempts the Shamir government, which, like the Bush administration, is deceiving itself when it insists on keeping the PLO away.

A short review will enable us to say that the Palestinian delegation to Madrid is part of the PLO and its strategy. The delegation that met Baker on his first shuttle tour in the region and even in the last meeting before Madrid informed Baker in writing and verbally that its authority to agree to the meeting and on all issues it discussed came from the Palestinian leadership, that it was part of the PLO, and that the delegation members without the PLO and the leadership were nothing and represented nothing. That being so, anyone who says that the Palestinian delegation is not the PLO delegation and that the PLO is not its authority is deceiving himself, whether he be the Shamir government or the American administration.

you cannot accept? The Arab answer came in the form of a faltering and unpalatable stammer.

In Madrid, everybody sat down to assure the entire world that Arabs are capable of confrontation within a dialogue. Palestinians sat with Israelis, gaining everybody's respect and displaying inexhaustible patience, enlightenment, great flexibility, adherence to the right position, and intelligence which foiled the Israelis' opportunity to cling to formalities. They said whatever they had on their mind, including the fact that they will not relinquish their political leadership, which exists with the consensus of the Palestinians at home and abroad.

When a member of the Israeli delegation objected to a member of the Palestinian delegation who was wearing a Palestinian *kufiyah* [head cover] similar to that of Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian responded, "I will not object if you wear a yarmulke right now."

Also in Madrid, Syrians and Israelis sat together for five hours in a single session during which no progress was made. Then both sides emerged, each telling his story. Consequently, the whole world understood that Israel doesn't want to put Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the basis of the conference and its legal support, on the discussion table.

The third reason confirming that the conference has been an Arab success is what everybody knows that Shamir went to Madrid involuntarily. According to MA'AREV, he went to the peace conference as if he were going to a funeral. If he hadn't been confident that the U.S.-Israeli relations couldn't withstand a wager or a gamble, he would have clung to his numerous conditions, which would have simply meant no convocation of the conference.

Shamir has known from the beginning that the conference will not serve his interest because it blocks the path to accomplishing the objective which he does not conceal, namely, to devour the occupied Arab territories so as to create the greater Israel under circumstances which seem to be opportune. He has exclusive possession of deterrent nuclear weapons, he controls the occupied territories, and he implants in them more settlements every day so that these settlements can absorb the waves of Soviet immigrants. Meanwhile, the Palestinians are experiencing decline in the PLO's influence because of the Gulf crisis, not to mention the absence of the Soviet role that had supported the Arabs.

Convocation of the conference is, in itself, a great Arab success for the aforementioned reasons. I believe that the harvest of the phase has served the interest of the Arab parties, who have affirmed with clarity that leaves no place for doubt that they want a just and balanced peace built on implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, that they want normal relations with Israel built on neighborly conditions and joint cooperation, and that there is nothing to prevent a regional cooperation that ensures stability and progress

for the Middle East if occupied Arab land is restored to its owners and if the Palestinians get their right to self-determination.

It was not only the addresses delivered by the Arab delegations to the conference that reflected this Arab consensus on the need for comprehensive and just peace. This consensus has also been reflected in the presence of observers from the Gulf Cooperation Council, the presence of Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, and the contacts made behind the scenes between Riyadh, Cairo, and Damascus to surmount any obstacles that might face the negotiating Arab delegations. To put it briefly, it became evident to the whole world that the Arab delegations present at the Madrid Conference rely on a single Arab political decision that underlines the peace option and confirms that the Arabs are prepared to shoulder its consequences and responsibilities. Then there came the Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—demonstrations holding up olive branches to tell the entire world very clearly that the predominant tendency on Palestinian soil wants a just peace and supports the Palestinian delegation's mission in Madrid.

Yes, there are some forces among the Arabs that oppose the peace conference. Some of them continue to have doubts about the credibility of the U.S. position if the situation should require firmness to dictate correct implementation of the Security Council resolutions, which do not justify seizing other people's land with the force of arms. But most of the opponents belong to small Palestinian factions who fear that their role will disappear if a comprehensive and just peace triumphs; or they belong to the Muslim Brotherhood tendency and the radical factions that have followed, since the Gulf crisis, an anarchic course which seeks to exploit any opportunity to destabilize the region's governments, falsely believing that they will be the heirs to power.

It is surprising that Egypt's AL-SHA'B would come up with a headline saying: "If you cannot, then we are up to it." I wonder where this eligibility and this ability come from, unless AL-SHA'B believes that Iran will mobilize a million troops to liberate Palestine!

From where, how, when, and who gives them weapons, considering that Iran itself was buying weapons from Israel?

It would behoove this tendency to hide and retreat to the shadow in shame, in wake of its latest follies in Algeria and of its disgraceful position in the Gulf crisis, when it helped Saddam to hurl Iraq into an imminent catastrophe, lauding his rash gamble because he, according to what AL-SHA'B said at the time, "will not lose the battle. Not a chance in a million."

Yes, there are among the Arabs those who fight the conference. But they are not the majority of the Arab people. Moreover, they are less of an influence on, and a danger to, the peace process than the radical Israeli forces.

complete outcome, regardless of whether Shamir or somebody else is in the Israeli negotiation seat.

Broad NDP Leadership Changes Expected

92AF0059B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
14 Oct 91 p 6

[Exclusive Report]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Egypt has begun its countdown to extensive changes that are expected on the political and economic levels and which were announced by President Husni Mubarak in his speech celebrating Labor Day at the beginning of May 1991.

At the political level, the initial step toward rebuilding the governing National Democratic Party [NDP] in Egypt through elections will effectively begin 20 Oct 91. According to the NDP schedule, the elections are set to last until July 1992, the time for convening the sixth party congress. The party leader; members of the political bureau; and members of the party's secretariat, including the secretary general and his four assistants, will be elected.

The NDP decision to reconstitute its organizational and leadership structure through the democracy of elections opens up a new phase of party activity in Egypt and even of the democratic experiment, which began by adopting the multi-party system in 1967. This comes after practicing, for the 12 years following the formation of the party, what might be called the "democracy of choice." Reality indicates that what is happening to the majority party is being reflected, directly or indirectly, on all other parties, or rather, on party politics in Egypt in general.

The above is the opinion of NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali, which he expressed in a previous interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

It seems that the reasons for the expected positive outcome of the NDP elections on party activity in Egypt in general are not limited to its being the majority party. Logically, the future leadership of the NDP, chosen through these elections, will also directly influence the relationship between the NDP and the opposition parties. The facts indicate that in Egypt, the two sides of party and political activity equation—the governing and opposition parties—have swung back and forth in the conduct of their relationship in the past ten years. In spite of the numerous clashes between the two sides, they have been very careful to maintain an open-door policy in their bilateral relations.

"Our relations with opposition parties are based on the firm position that the points of agreement that we share far exceed those of disagreement, which are often concerned with details.

A New Cabinet

Sources close to the NDP indicate that arrangements for announcing a new cabinet are now being made as the concluding step of currently projected reforms. These sources predict that the new cabinet will be led by the current prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. This is the third cabinet change that Dr. Sidqi has led. From the time he assumed the leadership of the Egyptian Government in 1986, he has demonstrated practical, total success in achieving what is required in the economic field.

In assurances to "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT," sources close to the NDP indicated that concluding steps for economic reform and creating the basis for supply-and-demand and applying a market economy will take priority in the make-up of the new cabinet.

Licensing New Parties

While the previous stage of party politics had witnessed some restraints on the formation of new parties in accordance with the New Parties' Licensing Law, which empowered the Political Parties Commission to reject or license the formation of new parties, prominent NDP sources have assured AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Political Adjudication Organization is now earnestly formulating a project to abolish all restraints on the formation of political parties, which is to be presented to the Egyptian parliament. That includes enfranchising parties and allowing them to operate freely.

These sources also indicated that the liberal phase, which Egyptian society is now undergoing in both the political and economic spheres necessitates consideration for the formation of a new party to represent the liberal opposition. The New Wafd Party has failed to play this role in the past years.

This does not mean that there would be an allocation of roles for the parties, but the nature of the changes that will take place in Egyptian society, already beginning to manifest themselves, dictate such. This was indicated by a prominent NDP source.

It seems that NDP leaders still recall the positions of some parties during the Gulf crisis and the war to liberate Kuwait, which went against the consensus of the Egyptian people as a result of miscalculations and self-promotion.

In any case, the political message of the NDP leadership always affirms that "our relations with the opposition are governed by the genuine feeling that national identity and ties of kinship must rise above any party ties or benefits."

Perhaps the assurances of the NDP leadership will reveal a new opening in party relationships that will encompass both sides of political party activity (the governing NDP and the opposition parties) during the coming stage. The stage of party politics is awaiting its new faces, but they are still awaiting a judicial sanction to begin their activities officially.

under trade and payment protocols, the Soviet Union has imported more from Egypt than it has exported to it. The difference is not actually paid to Egypt but recorded in accounts with the two countries' central banks, in the Soviet hope that a debit balance will accumulate to in effect cover Egypt's military debts owed to the Soviet Union.

"This practice has tended to restrict the volume of trade between the two countries, inasmuch as Egypt has wished not to increase the deficit and has thus avoided increasing its exports to the Soviet Union.

"One of the measures taken by the government was to conclude an agreement with the Soviet Union on a fixed annual deficit not to exceed 20 million accounting pounds sterling."

Problem of Indebtedness

Dr. Sultan Abu-'Ali, a former economy minister, believes that the problem of indebtedness should not impede the export of Egyptian goods to the Soviet market. The Soviet market is the biggest market in the world, on which all countries have set their sights. "We must expect problems while Egypt and the Soviet Union undergo the transition to free market policies. These problems will eventually be surmounted. We must also expect fundamental changes in economic relations between the two countries. After these changes, and after the Soviet ruble and the Egyptian pound become negotiable internationally, doing business with the Soviet Union will become like doing business with any market with which trade is effected through the international market.

"These changes in Egypt and the Soviet Union do not mean an end to bilateral trade at present. Rather, they mean that this trade must be restructured to the mutual benefit of the two countries. In other words, Egyptian-Soviet trade is moving toward being based on free transactions in the international market. This tendency will be significant, insofar as we will not be able to rely on the continued Soviet Union importation of Egyptian products regardless of price or quality. The same is true for us.

"This trade will be carried out according to international practices, which are based on quality and competition. The current economic restructuring in the Soviet Union and Egypt can develop so as to lead to an increase in the trade volume."

The Protocol Formula

Ayhab Abazah, the chairman of the board of the public Engineering Operations Company, believes that the protocol formula has become irrelevant, because prior agreements with the Soviet Union cannot be implemented following the independence of the Soviet republics. However, regarding the future, there are a number of alternatives for doing business. "There is the possibility of undertaking joint projects and operations to

assemble some types of equipment. Then, there is doing business based on repayment credits [i'timadat mutaqa-balah]. This is in addition to the current formula of in-kind deals. Under the in-kind formula, exchanges are valued in free currency, but no free currency is transferred. Instead, one commodity is exchanged for another. In order to obtain Russian imports on the best terms, and a commitment to shipping programs and rapid implementation, each contract for the import of goods from a Russian company or factory should be accompanied by an offer of Egyptian consumer and other export goods to that company or factory. These companies and factories need these goods to provide for the needs of their workers and their families. [They can obtain these goods] by this means in deference to the aspirations of their workers, who have long suffered deprivation. These companies or factories will thus be compelled to do business in a spirit of friendship based on a desire to continue doing business."

According to Ayhab Abazah, direct transactions between Egyptian companies and Russian companies might be the most suitable long-term alternative to any commercial protocol between the two governments.

Imported Soviet Goods

Regarding Soviet exports to the Egyptian market, he states that we depend on the Soviet market to provide a large amount of our bituminous coal, wood, different types of paper, frozen fish, equipment, and machinery. All of these commodities are in demand in the Egyptian market and have features that suit them to the Egyptian agricultural and industrial pattern of consumption.

Sidqi Comments on Economic Reforms

92AF0133A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
8 Nov 91 p 10

[Article by Usamah [Saraya]]

[Text] The debate over Egypt's economic future never ceases. It is every citizen's problem, as well as of Egypt as a whole. Recently the Association of Graduates of the National Institute of Management held, as part of its series of successful annual conferences, an in-depth seminar entitled "Axis of Change in the Egyptian Society." The seminar comprised a complete workshop that involved executive officials led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, all the ministers concerned with economic reform policy in Egypt, and thinkers and management leaders, in order to monitor changes in Egypt and to see how to safeguard its economic future. In view of the importance of this conference and its vitality, it was necessary that we should pursue the axis, or the outcome of the economic reform policy that has actually been implemented, as the prime minister reports. We will then move to the political, economic, and social thinking that drives change internally and externally in order to plot the changes and put our feet on the right path with perception and thorough insight.

that the itemized tax is easier and simpler than the unified tax. For this reason, it has been adopted by all the countries. Studies have shown that, in view of the complexity of the unified tax system, a modern, contemporary, and efficient tax department is needed. Therefore, we are waiting for the Tax Department to be modernized and for tax awareness to be heightened, bearing in mind that we realize that a unified tax system is the fairest of all systems."

The prime minister announced that the standardized tax system is expected to come into effect during fiscal year 1992-1993. He said, "We have carried out a comprehensive modernization of the tax system and have been training the staff so that we will not suffer any shortfall in taxes." With regard to liberating the Egyptian economy, the prime minister said, "We will not hesitate to carry through the policies of economic liberation. The government will not intervene, except in the strictest sense. The only way to protect local industry is to develop it and to boost its ability to compete in the open market while enjoying the advantage of a customs tariff."

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said there are solutions for the unemployment problem in several directions, "most important of which is to broaden the production base of the private sector or the business sector in order to create jobs for everybody, both men and women. The proposal that women are to be pensioned off is not the solution. The problem of the unemployed cannot be solved at the expense of other categories of people becoming unemployed."

Where Is Egyptian Export Risk Insurance?; Exporters' Rights Vis-a-vis Poor Iraq

The prime minister was asked about the problem of the Egyptian companies that exported to Iraq within the limits. [sentence as published] The prime minister said, "But [we do not] resort to restrictions and measures, because every restriction creates more restrictions after it, since freedom opens the way to opportunities and to the survival of the fittest, because competition is the essence of freedom. Freedom would lead to the liberation of foreign trade. We will not again resort to banning imports or to fixing quotas within the framework of the exchange deal. The Egyptian companies did not receive their dues, which amount to \$66 million, of which \$25 million belong to the private sector and \$41 million to the public sector. The private companies will suffer losses and will resort to overdrawing their accounts and to borrowing from banks with interest as a result of this acute crisis."

The prime minister said that this is a real problem and the government is looking into it. "The minister of economy has studied the matter and the government will not let the companies lose their dues. They will obtain their dues in full, but we are waiting for the compensation that is going to be paid to the countries that have suffered from the Gulf war and the Iraqi aggression."

The prime minister added, "But studying this problem should lead us to the conclusion that establishing an

Egyptian company to guarantee exports is important for dealing with this problem and other problems. We are on the way to establishing such a company and we will put the matter to the People's Assembly at its next session."

Minister Announces Tourism Income Statistics

92AF0132A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 1

[Article: "\$3 Billion Egypt's Tourism Revenue This Year"]

[Text] Mr. Fu'ad Sultan, the minister of tourism, stated that Egypt will derive \$3 billion in revenue from 3 million tourists this year, thus regaining its tourism position in the wake of the Gulf crisis. He also announced a decision to grant tourists immediate visas at airports and ports and to allow them to bring in and take out foreign currency without restrictions.

At yesterday's opening of the African Tourism Conference, which was attended by representatives of 35 African countries and 85 American companies specialized in attracting tourists from the United States to Africa, the minister said that Egypt has acquired a prominent position as a result of its important and vital role during the crisis. This has greatly affected the flow of tourists to Egypt.

He added there are 600,000 American tourists to the African countries a year. It has been decided to incorporate Egypt into this tourism by having "safari tours" to central Africa include a visit to Egypt on the same plane ticket. American tourists will have to pay no additional charges, except the costs of accommodation in Egypt. This will lead to an increase in their numbers coming to Egypt.

The minister stated at the conference that Egypt has diversified its tourism programs and has linked cultural and archeological tourism to tourism for rest and recreation. Egypt has built a series of tourist villages on the Red Sea and in southern Sinai, increasing the number of world-class diving centers. A hospital for "deep-sea medicine" is now being built to handle emergencies.

Official Provides Tax Revenue Figures

92AF0133B Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 6

[Report by Fu'ad Fawwaz]

[Text] An official source in the Tax Department said tax revenue during the first quarter of 1991-1992 totaled 2 billion Egyptian pounds, representing an increase of 600 million pounds over the same period last year. The source said the revenue expected to be collected this year will reach 10 billion pounds, while adhering to the policy of treating taxpayers kindly and avoiding overburdening them.

matter of repaying part of the project's loans by exporting part of the project's production."

He explained that the contract provides that two specialized French companies will help implement the project: the first to import equipment, the second to provide technical expertise. Part of the project's equipment—worth about 118 million pounds—will be manufactured locally. The civil installations will be worth about 40 million pounds. Egypt Aluminum Company, with which the new project is affiliated, will finance part of the project from its own resources. The National Investment Bank and the Islamic Bank of Jiddah are participating in the funding. There are also loans on favorable terms from Saudi Arabia and France.

Decrease in Cotton Production Analyzed

92AF0132E Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
31 Oct 91 p 6

[Article by Ra'fat Sulayman: "Will Egyptian Cotton Return to Throne of Egyptian Agriculture?"]

[Text] Ever since Muhammad 'Ali introduced cotton growing to Egypt at the beginning of the 19th century, this strategic crop has remained king on the throne of Egyptian agriculture and a symbol of that agriculture. Yet the past few years have seen a decline in cotton production and a drop in the production figure to its lowest levels.

Thus the farmer no longer wants to plant cotton. The reasons are many and varied.

Those interested in Egyptian agriculture trace the decline in Egypt's domestic cotton production to a group of factors affecting the productivity of the unit of measurement, the feddan [1.038 acres], while another group of factors has worked to reduce the area devoted to growing cotton. The figures illustrate this. For the last 10 years, since 1981-1982, production has been declining, the crop area has been shrinking, and cotton's problems have become more complex. At the beginning of the eighties, in 1980-1981, which can be considered cotton's year of abundance, production reached 10.9 million qantars [1 qantar=44.93 kg] on a land area of 1.9 million feddans. Thereafter the production rate began to decline. Last year it reached 5.6 million qantars on a land area of 1.006 million feddans. In 1991-1992, 850,000 feddans were planted in cotton, the lowest figure recorded in recent years.

A discussion of the cotton problem confronts us with a number of questions. Will this season be the last of the lean years for Egyptian cotton? How can one emerge from the cycle of problems that the main crop of Egyptian agriculture is experiencing?

Agronomists trace the various reasons for the drop in domestic production to a number of factors. Dr. Salah al-Jundi, professor of economics in the Faculty of Agriculture of al-Mansurah University, says that widespread,

haphazard use of insecticides has created an environmental imbalance and has killed off the natural enemies of pests.

As has been noted, the appearance of the boll weevil just before harvest leads to destruction of the crop and declining productivity of the feddan. Furthermore, late planting times cause cotton plants to miss the appropriate environmental season for growth and pest resistance.

Some varieties, such as al-Jizah-69, are inappropriate and low in yield. It was recently replaced, and its planting halted as of last season.

Agricultural extension agencies have been negligent in reaching farmers in the field and instructing them how to plant, combat pests, irrigate properly, and perform each agricultural operation at the right time—this in spite of our having the expertise and talent. We have approximately 200,000 agricultural engineers who can be used for agricultural extension operations. A director of agriculture in al-Sharqiyah Governorate says that the role of the agricultural extension agent, who used to deal directly with the farmer and be in contact with him, no longer exists as it once did. The reason, in his view, is that research experts in the Agriculture Ministry now intervene in the work of agricultural extension. Applications of research now take place in the field without considering the failure or success of the research experts' applications. He says that their role should be limited to research in laboratories and model fields. Widespread application should be under the auspices of agricultural extension. A research expert at the Agricultural Research Center raises an important question. He says that applications of the creation of new varieties of cotton seeds were taking place in the middle of the fields; there were some bad seeds, and this in turn spoiled the degree of superiority of the good seeds.

Dr. Muhammad Abu-Mandur says that varieties used in recent years have gotten mixed up and that some bad varieties have crept in as a result of foreign dependence with the importation of short-staple cottons to satisfy the domestic market. Furthermore, the varieties of cotton seeds used in past years were old; not updating them caused their low yield.

Also, the National Academy of Research in Agriculture has been neglected and no longer has a role, even though it once was considered one of the best schools of agricultural research.

One-Sided Relation

Furthermore, the farmer's relation to agricultural extension and the government has become a one-way relationship based on orders, not on participation and education. The farmer implements the orders of those in

not just in the military, strategic, and political sense, but also in the peaceful developmental and economic sense. Through control over international lending and financial agencies, Western conditions have been slipped in to thwart and stagnate any Arab nuclear project, as well as to blockade it.

Experts, technicians, and military specialists confirm that the Western blockade could be breached, and they delineate the conditions for that. We also have the technical and technological components and raw materials required to manufacture the Arab capability. We do not lack the financing, so much as we lack the political will and the clarity of strategic vision.

Everyone emphasizes that Arab political reality is not capable—now—of establishing an Arab nuclear weapon as a strategic deterrent in the conflict with the Zionist entity. This does not deny the need, or rather, the duty to construct peaceful nuclear power plants whose role would be for development and to share in the atomic industry pursuant to development in the future.

In regard to this issue, what do experts in that field say?

Crisis of Decision

Present circumstances are not propitious to achieve an Arab nuclear weapon. There are many obstacles in the path of this goal. This statement was made to me by military and strategic expert Staff Major General Tal'at Musallam, who went on to say: "I think that it would not be impossible to produce and manufacture this weapon, if we were convinced of the need for it, through debate and through a conviction of the necessity of creating a military balance with Israel. Regarding the elements that this industry would require, you will find that Egypt and Iraq have made great strides on the scientific level, to the extent that Iraq was very close to, or on the verge of, achieving this goal. Therefore, I believe that the most important thing that must be done is to preserve the expertise and knowledge that Arab intellect has achieved in nuclear technology, and to complete the installations and materials. All of this will contribute to producing the Arab nuclear weapon. Unfortunately, as we know, Iraq is under nuclear supervision. Instead of Arab silence contributing to its destruction, Arab agencies must obtain Iraq's expertise and industries. We must now think about constructing new nuclear facilities, as a pledge of political decision and will, which must strive to build nuclear power plants and reactors."

Maj. Gen. Musallam added: "The cadre that undertakes this construction must be Arab. It is possible to ask foreign experts for assistance, but caution is necessary, because the international environment is not propitious."

With regard to importing the components of a nuclear weapon, Maj. Gen. Musallam feels that it is preferable to deal with individuals rather than nations, despite the nations' advantages, because political circumstances contribute to their inconsistent positions. "Moreover, the nuclear material required for the weapon is one of

the products of the reaction required for energy and, consequently, it would be possible to obtain it easily from individuals in its peaceful form. The nuclear material can be found on the international market, but the circle where one can obtain it is restricted, which makes it a secretive, complex process that cannot attract attention, because it could be a violation of the international embargo imposed on that material. Accordingly, this should not be left to one state, but rather, should be dealt with as a regional responsibility to produce, manufacture, and protect this goal, so that our nuclear project does not become a target for a foreign attack."

Joint Responsibility

Concerning Arab technological resources that might be available, Dr. Hasan Nafi'ah, professor of political science in the College of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, stated: "Resources are available, but the question is, should the burden of manufacturing an Arab nuclear bomb be put on one country? I think that the responsibility should be a joint one, politically and strategically, among the Arab nations. Nevertheless, this would be no easy matter, inasmuch as the Arab states differ among themselves on how to resolve the Palestinian issue, 'by a peaceful settlement, or by a strategy of steadfastness, or by the deterrent strategy.' The question raised is how to crystallize an Arab regional agreement on manufacturing the nuclear bomb. This would—realistically—be difficult to achieve in the midst of an Arab climate charged with disputes and tension. After what happened to Iraq, the Arab states will think twice before manufacturing and producing nuclear weapons. It would be erroneous to believe that we lack resources or technical expertise. The weapon is not an American monopoly alone. On the contrary, the technical expertise is available and is not a monopoly of the West. It is well-known that India has a high level of expertise in nuclear bomb manufacturing and, consequently, from the political aspect, one could find an outlet to compensate for any deficiency in technical expertise. On the other hand, it is said that international monitoring is increasing; America is pursuing harsher measures and is putting pressure on all parties, so that no nuclear cooperation takes place, especially with regard to the Arabs. I think that this supervision is illegal, inasmuch as it prevents the Arabs from producing and manufacturing nuclear weapons. The Iraqi nuclear program was developed with the assistance of French technical expertise. This cooperation continued until Israel destroyed the Iraqi reactor in 1981. Nevertheless, Iraq continued and was successful in developing its nuclear program. Even if the Gulf war had not occurred, the West most likely would have disarmed and blockaded Iraq. I don't think that there is any party in the world that has the power and structure to control this capability and this nuclear weapon. Gaps exist and are found in this international order, whose features have not yet crystallized, despite American influence."

future. On the contrary, the more we procrastinate in starting our nuclear program, the more the cost and difficulties increase in achieving that program in the long run. Perhaps it should not be termed difficult to achieve. We have the expertise and the human, technical, and material resources. We must also follow the example of the countries of the rest of the world, all of which are heading toward the construction of nuclear power plants."

Colonialist Plots

Dr. Munir Mujahid, director of the Studies Administration in the Nuclear Power Plant Agency, warns that the absence of nuclear power plants means capitulation to colonialist plots that have been an obstacle in the path of introducing nuclear technology into Egypt and the Arab nation since 1960. This confirms the retention of this kind of energy in the hands of imperialist nations, and makes us continue in stagnate subordination to the West. Dr. Munir Mujahid believes that there is a global tendency toward reliance on using nuclear power, both on the level of advanced and developing nations, because everyone has begun to understand the benefits of these plants in obtaining cheaper electricity in a more reliable way. There is increased confidence in nuclear reactors. Dr. Mujahid rejects expansion of thermal plants that rely on the use of coal or gas, because they are harmful to the environment, since these plants produce carbon dioxide gases and toxic, acid-rain emissions that damage the ozone layer. All of these poisons do not occur in nuclear plants. We can avoid other kinds of disasters from power stations and contribute to our advancement without wasteful reliance on the West. It should be emphasized that we have successful examples in dealing with advanced technology; we have the capability to protect our nuclear reactors in the future, with our proficiency and skill in maintaining the security and performance of these plants.

Programs Under Implementation

Dr. Hafiz Hajji, deputy chief of the Egyptian Military Atomic Energy Commission stated: "Since 1984, we have conducted detailed studies of the local possibilities for manufacturing nuclear power plants to generate electricity. Our interest is in medium-capability nuclear reactors, and we have the ability to manufacture its small components locally. These reactors do not require large investments. As for the nuclear fuel required by the reactors, it is the natural form of uranium and requires no complex technology. It can be extracted, refined, and manufactured directly. In this regard, an agreement has been reached with Canada to manufacture nuclear reactor components in Egypt. It has become clear that Egypt can manufacture the reactor and will not fall under the influence of world monopolies. We are now waiting for the political decision. The program is in the implementation stage, despite erroneous information exaggerating the costs. Let me stress here that the cost of the nuclear reactor is only \$1.3 billion, of which Egypt will contribute \$850 million." Dr. Hafiz Hajji added that any

country that shifts to nuclear technology undergoes a cultural change in all fields. "Moreover, Egypt embarked on the High Dam battle, and it spawned huge companies and projects. Egypt should plunge into the battle of nuclear energy, so that it will possess high technology and be a specific source of assistance to the Arab nations in attaining this technology. I call on the Gulf states, in particular, to aid Egypt materially so that it can support Arab roles vis-a-vis this goal."

Dr. Hajji pointed out that there is no danger from the use of nuclear plants. Safety precautions currently being taken put them in the forefront of energy options in terms of safety and environmental protection. The proof of that is the fact that no nuclear accidents have occurred in developing countries that have built nuclear reactors, such as India, Pakistan, and Taiwan. Dr. Hajji rejects the West's statement that the Third World is incapable of utilizing this type of energy. His rejection is proven correct by the fact that there are 200 Egyptian workers operating and working in nuclear reactors in Canada. Egypt is the best place for them!

JORDAN

Hebrew TV Program To Target Israelis

92AE0113A

[Editorial Report] An article in the 1 Dec issue of the London-based, Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports that, according to Palestinian sources, Jordan is preparing a Hebrew-language television program aimed at "the occupied territories" in cooperation with the PLO. The program is aimed at "convincing the Israelis that peace is in the interest of all of the peoples of the region, and that the path that the current Israeli Government is going down will never lead to anything but war and destruction...." It says that the program will be overseen by "a senior Jordanian official with extensive communications experience," and that descendants of Palestinians from the occupied territories will write for it. The program will include news broadcasts, political analysis, interviews, entertainment, and historical themes.

Paper Criticizes 'Muhammad's Army' Trial

92AE0072A Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 22 Oct 91 p 2

[Article: "In State Security Court"]

[Text] The case that has been dubbed "Muhammad's Army" is one of the most important local issues and is on everybody's lips in Jordan, because it directly touches public life in Jordan.

The great mass of people who flock to the military court building to get into the courtroom and attend public sessions, attest to that importance.

Accordingly, AL-RIBAT was interested in following up this important matter through field interviews with

- keeping the 12th defendant away from the trial session before the last session (on 10 October), despite the fact that he was not disruptive. That abstention was required without prior notification!

Immediately after that, after recessing the session for consultation and deliberation, the head of the court sent a final notice to Jawad Yunis. As an immediate result of that notice, the latter was compelled to announce his withdrawal from the case.

With regard to this same topic, we talked with Professor Ismi Khadr, who is defending some of the accused. We asked her about the course of the trial sessions in the "Muhammad's Army" case. She replied. "I prefer to use the expression 'the so-called Muhammad's Army.'" She went on to say: "There is no doubt that the defense has an opinion regarding the constitutionality of the court. The Law of the State Security Court mangles the principle of separation of powers by creating a vast power that does not enjoy complete independence, as is stipulated in the constitution, inasmuch as its designating is done by the head of the executive authority, who is the prime minister.

"It also violates the principles set forth in the Jordanian National Charter. Jordan is a state of laws based on the principle of separation of powers and on a guarantee of judicial independence.

"There are also certain points pertaining to how the court was formed, and the extent of the congruent nature of this formation with the provisions in force. There was also an incident pertaining to the arrest and interrogation process. In my view, it is a fundamental incident because, from my perspective, although there was an allegation that the Bureau of General Intelligence took control over the organization since the third month, the basic cases that led to the arrest of the organization's individuals and to their being remanded for trial, are criminal acts ascribed to them. However, they were handled in the month after the directives of the martial law administration were cancelled, which means that the basic acts and the arrest of most, or rather, the great majority, of the accused organization individuals was done after 7 August."

As regards Attorney Khadr's reasons for taking on this case, she said:

"I am defending principles of truth and justice. I consider Islam to be the history, civilization, and legacy of this society in which I live. I don't think of myself as outside of this history and culture. I glory in it, and I am proud of it.

"I am proud that these defendants have confidence in me. This expresses convictions that go hand in hand with the spirit of the prevailing religious tolerance and positive dealings that Islam fundamentally embraces as a methodology. Because they give me their trust, I will not be less than this trust. I shall do all I can to uphold my commission."

Counselor Husayn Majlis, in his capacity as a lawyer defending a large number of the accused, submitted a rebuttal to the court containing 10 basic points. At the end of his rebuttal on behalf of the defense, he demanded the immediate release of the defendants because of the absolute invalidity of the interrogations contained in the case file.

His rebuttal included the following points:

- Law No. 24 of 1964 (General Intelligence Law) was devoid of any provision granting the Bureau of General Intelligence the function of arresting and interrogating individuals. This function is within the purview of the public prosecutor and the Prosecutor's Office.
- When the defendants were arrested and interrogated, it was done by General Intelligence officers, and was after the date abolishing the martial law administration of 1967. Therefore, the actions of arresting them, interrogating them and, consequently, taking their depositions by the Bureau of General Intelligence officials are legally invalid.
- There is no truth to the falsehood, as asserted by the public prosecutor of the State Security Court in an independent report, that he summoned all the accused and established identities, and that the testimony the accused gave to the Bureau of General Intelligence is the testimony given to the public prosecutor of the State Security Court. So long as the defendants' testimony was initially taken without legal jurisdiction to do so, it loses all its value and cannot be depicted as testimony. The public prosecutor of the State Security Court must interrogate the defendants in detail and listen to their statements from the beginning.
- Since the bill of indictment by the State Security Court relied upon, and was based upon, the defendants' depositions to the Intelligence Bureau, which we have established as invalid, then this bill of indictment is also invalid.

On Monday 21 October 1991, the fifth session of the trial was held. We will follow up the trial's proceedings in our next edition.

Report Details Housing Projects, Scarcity

92AE0071A London AL-SHARQ-ALAWSAT in Arabic
11 Nov 91 p 11

[Article: "Demography in Jordan Has Changed With Emigres Returning From Gulf"]

[Text] Ten years ago, Jordanians were not accustomed to living in residential apartments. Despite the fact that Amman probably contained hundreds of apartments before that date, the other Jordanian cities did not have this type of building until only 10 years ago.

During this 10-year period, the business of constructing and selling apartments flourished so much that the director of the Jordanian Housing Authority, which is

Returning Emigres

Nasir Salih Mahmud, a returning emigre from Kuwait who used to work as an accountant, had difficulty finding an apartment. He finally found one with floor space of 100 meters for a monthly rent of 65 dinars. That was at the beginning of the Gulf crisis. With the continual return of emigres and the raising of apartment rents, his problems began when the apartment owner insisted on raising the rent, despite their signed contract. According to the landlord, an apartment like Nasir's rented for 150 dinars monthly. Nasir tried to find another apartment, but without success. One should note that Nasir's salary was no more than 140 dinars per month, and he supports a family of 12 persons.

Apartment Rents Become Unreal

Muhammad al-Munajirah, a newlywed, stated: "I tried for several months to find an apartment, but I was thwarted by the very high rents. An apartment of one room, kitchen, and bath, which previously rented for 50 dinars a month, now rents for 200 dinars. This is a lot of money, for which I can see no justification, despite the return of the emigres and the enormous demand for apartments."

Distribution of Housing Authority Projects by Governorate

Governorate	Number of Projects	Number of Units
Amman	23	6,891
Al-Zarqa'	9	2,534
Irbid	8	918
Al-Mafraq	2	146
Al-Balqa'	4	220
Al-Karak	9	348
Al-Tafilah	6	248
Ma'an	20	3,608
Total	81	14,913

Al-Munajirah added that apartment owners prefer to wait a long time, despite the constant demand, so that they can rent the apartment for higher rates.

KUWAIT

Minutes of 29 Oct National Assembly Meeting

92AE0057A London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Oct 91 p 4

[Article by Fayhan al-'Utaybi and 'Abdallah al-'Utaybi: "National Assembly Increases Marriage Loans to Citizens; Minister al-Rawdan: 'Government Has Allocated 8 Million Pounds for Prisoners and Missing; Al-Khurafi: 'Treatment of Prisoners Issue Shows Failure of Government Policy;' Dumaythir: 'Council of Ministers Required To Purge Leadership Level at Institutions;'

Al-Juwaysiri: 'I Challenge Minister To Bring in Officials From Beyond Fourth District; Employment at Kuwait Airways and Petroleum Organization Is Through Connectionism;' Al-Khudari: 'We Must Not Keep Silent on Government's Disregard for Us;' Al-Tuwayjiri: 'I Thank Press and I Laud SAWT AL-KUWAYT's Role'"]

[Text] Kuwait—Minister of Finance Nasir al-Rawdan has announced that the government has allocated 8 million Kuwaiti dinars to be spent on prisoners and the missing.

National Assembly members have criticized the government policy in its dealing with the prisoners issue and characterized it as a "failure."

Deputy al-Khurafi has said that "we have not learned the outcome of the Arab League envoy's visit to Baghdad." Dr. al-Misha'an has warned that a catastrophe will occur unless it is obviated, but he did not define the nature and dimensions of the catastrophe at the open session held by the National Assembly yesterday morning under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id.

Before the session was adjourned due to lack of quorum because a number of deputies departed from the hall, the assembly gave its approval to increasing the marriage loan given to citizens to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

Chairman: "The session is open."

Muhammad al-Hajraf: "We learned democracy long ago. We determine our policy. The Kuwaiti people determine their own domestic and foreign policy and nobody, whether from inside or outside, dictates to them.

"We thank the municipality for its new idea to establish municipalities in every governorate."

Hamad al-Tuwayjiri: "We thank the press for its good coverage of what goes on in the session, especially AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM and SAWT AL-KUWAYT for the major role they play in covering the session."

Marzuq al-Hubbini: "We want the assembly to accomplish the tasks for which it was created. We do not wish to swerve from the core of the issue and enter into needless labyrinths..."

And then the session is adjourned because of sharp debates between the members.

Chairman: "These sessions last until until 1500. The chairmanship will consider the other issues."

Talal al-'Ayyar: "The agenda reflects an obvious major effort. The time for frankness and disclosure has arrived. An ugly incident occurred recently and we want the press to reveal the facts and the names so that all can know."

'Ali al-'Umar: "A report by the National Committee for Prisoners and the Missing is submitted to the session. It must be considered."

Rights of Stateless

Barrak al-Nun: "We don't know what is intended by the failure to discuss complaints openly in our assembly. We demand that this employee be reinstated in his job. We demand that the Kuwaiti Airways and the Petroleum Corporation be Kuwaitized, because these two companies are surrounded by an iron wall and curtain and because only "certain" people get to be employed in them. The plaintiff must be returned to his job and his rights must be preserved fully."

Fayiz al-Bughayli: "The stateless have not gotten their rights. Therefore, the honorable among them must be given their rights and reinstated in their jobs."

'Abbas al-Khudari: "The prisoners issue is a national issue from which the Kuwaiti people in their entirety, not just the prisoners' families, suffer. The interaction between the assembly and the concerned authorities is "very cold." Therefore, we must mobilize our hearts and our minds for this issue and we must move at all levels, not just at the level of the Arab states. We must move at the level of world powers and UN organizations. We must raise this issue at the Security Council before Iraqi oil is [allowed to be] exported."

'Ali al-'Umar: "Some ministers have not cooperated with the Committee for Prisoners and the Missing and have not given this issue any attention. Moreover, the Arab League has not done anything regarding this issue. This is why we demand that greater attention be devoted to Kuwait's number-one issue."

Muhammad al-Mash'an: "Why the delay in [allocating] the budget for the Prisoners Committee's Executive Office? Why the shortage in the committee's cadre? These problems must be solved promptly. Why hasn't Ambassador Ahmad al-Fahd been summoned? What are the reasons that have prevented summoning him to Kuwait?"

'Ali al-'Umar: "Ambassador al-Fahd will come to Kuwait and will familiarize the committee with new developments concerning the prisoners. The committee is a legislative committee, not an executive committee that can implement all tasks."

Muhammad al-Mash'an: "If the current condition continues, a catastrophe may occur. Therefore, everybody must obviate this danger."

Alms House

Minister Dari al-'Uthman: "The prisoners issue is the main preoccupation of the government, which is looking into dealing with the consequences of the Iraqi aggression under the UN umbrella. These consequences include the prisoners and detainees issue, the demarcation of borders, and reparations. The government has decided to move at all levels and has contacted all countries and international organizations. Moreover, his highness the country's emir has dispatched envoys to a number of Arab heads of state. The government has

made the contacts it should make with the international and legal organizations and channels. We want this issue to be discussed under international pressure and we want to exploit all efforts to exert constant pressure. We have delivered lists of the prisoners' names to these international organizations and institutions."

Ibrahim Bu-Rusayli: "I hope that the prisoners issue will not be exploited by some countries to put pressure on us."

Marzuq al-Hubayni: "We must not hold one party responsible without knowing the reasons. At a previous session, the minister of justice told us that the prisoners' families are getting salaries. But we were then surprised to find that these families are financed by the Alms House and charitable organizations. The government must move on the prisoners issue. There are countries who have put their affairs on hold because of one or two prisoners. In our case, more than 2,000 prisoners are involved."

Minister Nasir al-Rawdan: "On the prisoners issue, the government is moving at the highest levels. The Council of Ministers has decided to disburse to families of the prisoners and of the missing a salary of 300 dinars per single prisoner and 500 dinars per married prisoner. Eight million dinars have been allocated for the families of the prisoners and the missing. The National Prisoners Committee devotes full attention to this issue and makes its decisions with complete fairness."

'Ali al-'Umar: "We are aware of the role of the government, led by his highness the country's emir, in following up on the prisoners issue."

Minister of finance: "The rapporteur has touched on the absence of the officials in charge of the committee work. If there are names other than those of Deputy Ahmad al-Fahd, the member must spell them out."

'Ali al-'Umar: "There are names, but I cannot recollect them now."

Chairman: "Session is adjourned for noon prayers."

Government Failure

Jasim Qabazard: "The presence of his highness the emir in the United Nations, and the international community's response to the emir are the best evidence of the international place Kuwait holds among peace-loving countries. We urge the government to continue raising the issue of our prisoners at home, and in the entire world, more properly and without delay. The entire world must know how concerned the Kuwaiti Government is with its people and know that Kuwait supports just causes and respects human rights. We are confident that the world will find itself compelled to sympathize more strongly with the issue of our prisoners."

Khalifah al-Khurafi: "We will not develop if the government continues as is and persists in following paths that lead to no results. We are aware that his highness the

Muhammad al-Musaylim complained that a local paper has canceled Section 9 in al-Firdaws.

When the audience applauded Deputy Khalaf Dumaythir al-'Anzi, al-Masa'id said: "You applauded the previous assembly so much that you lost it." The hall erupted with laughter. al-Musaylim responded: "We don't wish to hurt anybody."

At the outset of the session, a verbal argument broke out between 'Abbas al-Khudari and Mutlaq al-Shulaymi, and it would have ended in serious consequences had not some deputies intervened and had not the chairman threatened to adjourn the session.

The minister of communications told the journalists: "You are making great efforts and they are criticizing you." The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM editor answered: "Except us." The minister responded: "For the sake of the chairman."

When Khalifah al-Khurafi said that Kuwait is divided into south and east, a number of deputies protested, namely Khalaf Dumaythir al-'Anzi, Sa'dun al-'Utaybi, Muhammad al-Muhmil, Munayzil al-'Anzi, 'Ali al-'Utaybi, and Muhammad Hayf al-Hajraf.

Secretary Talal al-'Ayyar rose more than once and discussed issues, especially the farmers issue.

The name of Adam, the Arab League envoy, was mentioned repeatedly by deputies who demanded to know the results he achieved in his visit to Baghdad.

A number of deputies had confections and cocoa in the hall. What is more, one deputy gave up his turn in return for a sweet pastry.

Trying to clarify his opinion, Deputy Khalifah al-Khurafi said: "I ask that this issue not be raised so that there will be no division."

A number of deputies were observed moving frequently in the hall, especially toward the "government" seats.

When al-Juwaysiri characterized leaders in the cabinet ministries as people who live outside the Fourth District, one deputy responded: "Move your home to within the Fourth District."

Munayzil al-'Anzi demanded resolutely and enthusiastically that debts owed by farmers be dropped.

The General Secretariat employees exerted enormous efforts to facilitate things for deputies, journalists, and the audience, even though some deputies had attacked them.

Branch and Root

Commenting on dispatching Arab League Envoy Ambassador Adam to Baghdad to discuss the issue of the prisoners and the missing, Deputy Ibrahim Bu-Rusayli said that the government made a mistake because it

abandoned the "root"—the United Nations—and turned to the branch, the Arab League.

LEBANON

Phalangist-Lebanese Forces Differences Viewed

92A50026A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Oct 91 p 2

[Article: "Problems Continue Between Phalangists and Forces"]

[Text] Informed sources have revealed that the leader of the Phalangist Party, Minister Georges Sa'adah, was recently subjected to pressure by Phalangist Party Political Office members, who are supporters of the Lebanese Forces [LF], to resign from the government because the Phalangist Party ought not to provide cover for a government that does not deserve it, even though that would embarrass the party and its allies before public opinion. Lebanese Forces sympathizers in the Phalangist Party believe that President Ilyas al-Hawari had promised to resolve a problem stemming from the Amnesty Law by issuing a special pardon which had the validity of general amnesty. This occurred when a question was raised about the existence of memoranda suspending the right of a number of Phalangist and LF personnel for a grace period not to exceed two weeks. He then asked that the grace period be extended for an additional two weeks. However, the month of September passed and nothing happened, and it became incumbent upon the leader of the Phalangist Party to take a position deemed necessary by the Political Office: either retirement or resignation, unless the problem was resolved.

The timing of this affair coincided with the beginning of the open appearance of differences between Phalangists and the LF, especially after Minister Sa'adah forced the LF Phalangists to choose between remaining in the party and being loyal to it, or joining the LF's new party. The effects of these words shook up the LF, especially the LF supporters in the Phalangist Party's Political Office, who hinted in the party's recent meeting that the Forces' supporters' choice was the Phalangist Party, without concealing their wish to retain a decision inside the party.

Although those who are well-informed about events of the quadripartite meeting—which brought together Minister Sa'adah, Dr. Samir Ja'ja', Minister Roger Dib, and Deputy-designate Munir al-Hajj in Ghidras shortly before Sa'adah traveled to Paris—are certain that the meeting's atmosphere was positive and rational, the real situation does not reflect such a climate. That does not mean that it was not appropriate for conducting business and settlement. It is expected that Sa'adah's return from his trip will be followed by a series of initiatives designed to improve the climate—although the above-mentioned meeting completes a series of meetings to prepare for the party's general conference scheduled for 1-3 November

that the invitation to a conference of state governors will be sent out on 3 December to settle this matter before the beginning of next year.

As the committee chairman and general secretary of the anticipated political organization, Brig. Gen. Hasan Hamadayn, explained that the next few weeks will witness the announcement of a national constituent assembly to serve as a parliament. It will play an oversight role over the executive apparatus and will exercise legislative authority while the construction of the new political system is being completed. Afterwards, a new national assembly will be elected.

In a related development, the RCC's chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir announced a decision to create a committee for foreign affairs under his chairmanship. The committee will have responsibility for formulating solutions and proposals; improving foreign policy; setting priorities in foreign dealings; settling foreign affairs problems that are common to the ministries, departments, government-owned enterprises, and various bodies; monitoring agreements and protocols between the Sudan and other countries; and following and evaluating diplomatic executive performance.

The committee's membership will include RCC members Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, deputy chairman of the Political Committee; Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, head of the general security apparatus; the foreign minister; the finance minister; the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; and the secretary of the People's World Friendship Committee. In another development, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has decided to turn customs posts into a regular army force, technically and militarily, under the Interior Ministry, but administratively under the Finance Ministry.

The question of militarizing customs was the subject of disagreement between workers in the customs department. In 1984, former president Ja'far Numayri announced that customs workers would be converted into a regular army force. However, the transitional government of Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab responded to pressure from some workers and decided to re-convert them into a civilian force.

Opposition Condemns Split, Ruptures Self

Opposes Two-State Solution

92AF0119A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 17 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ—AL-SHARQ is exclusively publishing the statement of the Democratic National Grouping [DNG], which was issued today in Cairo and which condemns the separation of southern Sudan from the north. The statement called upon democratic and nationalistic forces in Africa and the Arab world to support those defending the unity of Sudanese soil.

The DNG also called upon Eric Mashar and Lam Akol, who called for the split, to strive for Sudanese unity, and not to be carried along on the apron-strings of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which ultimately aims to split the north from the south and set up a religious state in the north. The text of the statement is as follows:

The DNG, the legitimate representative of the Sudanese people, based on the legacies and fixed principles of the Sudanese national movement, affirms its determination to defend the unity of the nation and condemns with all its might any attempt that tries to divide it. Therefore, the DNG salutes the Sudanese Popular Liberation Movement [SPLM], which has remained a friend to the DNG's charter which was signed on 21 October 1989, and which the SPLM signed in March 1990, and to all charters and treaties, beginning with the Koka Dam treaty in March 1986 and the Sudanese peace initiative of 16 November 1988, and ending with the political communique of the meeting of the DNG leaders in Addis Ababa on 15-19 March 1991. These charters and treaties affirmed that democratic choice based on the rule of the people and plurality is the only path to which our people consent for building their new and unified nation, based on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and complete separation of powers; a democratic system strengthening the human rights guaranteed in regional and international agreements. This includes freedom of opinion, organization, and belief, and freedom of worship and the performance of religious practices; a system that respects a diversity of races, religions, spiritual beliefs, cultures, and customs; a system that is based on the fact that all Sudanese are equal before the law and in holding public positions and equal in all rights and duties irrespective of race, religion, sex, political orientation, or creed.

The DNG realizes that the circumstances of the difficult national struggle against the rule of the military control of the NIF and its program that aims to split the nation have aroused voices in the north and south calling for partition, but the steadfast Sudanese people deeply believe that the security, progress, and peace of the nation will not be achieved except under the banners of national unity and democracy. The Democratic National Grouping calls upon Brother Dr. Lam Akol and Brother Dr. Eric Mashar in striving for the progress of the struggle to restore democracy and freedom of our people to strive for the unity and cohesiveness of the popular movement. The DNG is confident that their presence in the movement of national democratic struggle will always be wanted by all the Sudanese democratic forces.

Our people are not only defending the unity of their soil and national security, but they are also defending Arab national security and African regional security. Our brothers around us warn that the threat of the plans for a split will involve everyone. Therefore, the DNG calls upon all national forces in Africa and the Arab world to do their duty and offer their quick and effective support to the fighters defending the unity of Sudanese soil. The unity of Sudan and the peace of its land will remain a

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning, presented before the conference on comprehensive strategy the fundamental principles of the 10-year strategy for economic salvation. He said that a twentyfold income increase is a large goal that will be difficult to realize in 10 years; a fourfold increase is possible if the components of the national income remain stable over the 10 years and if there is a firm base from which Sudan's economy can launch itself.

The finance minister stressed the need for strict adherence to spiritual precepts and to moral commitment and discipline as a firm foundation for revival.

He indicated that the foundation for a resurgence now is fragile and shaky, with production focusing on rain-dependent agriculture.

In this regard, he pointed to the need to lay a sound basis of production by vertical and horizontal expansion in the rain-fed agricultural sector, so that it reaches 16 million feddans.

Mr. Hamdi said that strategic change requires making qualitative leaps in the exploitation of Sudanese oil and the creation of an excellent investment climate attractive to investors.

He said that a good investment climate requires the presence of constants, including a stable political, legal, moral, and social climate. Mr. Hamdi called for changing all laws and regulations so that they become flexible and suitable to an investment environment. He indicated that the 10-year plan requires huge resources that will come only by attracting private foreign capital. He asked the directors of departments and government-owned companies to define foreign and local currency needs for an upswing during the 10 years.

The minister focused on the importance of effecting an administrative revolution in the public and private sector in order to acquire qualified technical talents and raise levels [of expertise]. He also stressed opening Sudan to Islamic and Arab expertise as the beginning of attracting foreign capital. Mr. Hamdi called attention to the need to develop the mining area, to develop export capacity in the field of animal resources and processing industries, and to improve the transportation and communication infrastructure.

Mr. Hamdi asked the strategy conference to present comparative studies of economic development so as to realize stability and discipline in accordance with the country's Islamic orientation. Attention should be given to lowering inflation to a reasonable rate, because the current situation is unreasonable and drives away investment. He called for setting a single, realistic exchange rate that would cause the market mechanism to surge ahead.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Statistics on Foreign Nationals in Dubayy

92AE0062B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
4 Oct 91 p 11

[Text] Dubayy, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Department of Immigration and Visas in Dubayy issued a large number of new visitor, work, and residence visas during the last six months. This large number reflects optimism in a robust economic situation witnessed by Dubayy and the Emirates in general.

The number of visas granted to Indians in the aforementioned period was 25,491, of which 13,429 were work visas, 7,216 were visitors' visas, and 4,856 were residence visas. Residence visas are usually given to wives and children of foreigners living in Dubayy in order to work.

Egyptians came second in the aforementioned period, of whom 9,863 persons received visas. The number of visiting Egyptians was 1,174, while 8,041 received residence visas. 7,854 Syrians received entry visas, of which 7,250 were visitors' visas, 408 were work visas, and 196 were residence visas.

Sri Lankans in the Emirates were in fourth place among those receiving residence visas, and most of this group were servants in homes and offices, and they do not have the right to bring their families for visits or residence. This explains the drop in visits by people of these nationalities, which are practically limited to visits by businessmen. Also, a number of Sri Lankan and Filipino servants who come to Dubayy with work visas ultimately settle in Kuwait. Filipinos were in fifth place, having obtained 4,808 visas in the past six months, of which 1,225 were visitors' visas, 3,249 were work visas, and 334 were residence visas. It should be mentioned that Sri Lankans and Filipinos constitute the great majority of non-Arab workers in the first-class hotels and restaurants and in the elite stores.

During the same period, 3,722 Iranians got entry visas to Dubayy, of which 2,691 were visitors' visas, 545 were work visas, and 586 were residence visas.

The number of those from Lebanon getting visas was 1,713, including 1,297 visitors' visas, 297 work visas, and 119 residence visas.

Also, 1,620 Bengalis got entry visas, including 1,241 work visas. Sixty-three Jordanians got residence visas, one Jordanian got a work visa, and 22 Jordanians got visitors' visas.

Vairous visas were obtained by 751 Britons, including 433 work visas and 267 residence visas, after Britons were made subject to the visa laws.

INDIA

Minister Expresses Apprehension About Uruguay Talks

92AS0294E Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English
19 Nov 91 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Nov (PTI)—Commerce Minister P. Chidambaram today expressed apprehension that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would not be completed before the end of this year.

Addressing the world economic forum on "integrating India into the international system," organised by the Confederation of Engineering Industry (DEI) here, he said the negotiations would not be completed because protectionist measures in advance countries showed no signs of abatement with fresh areas against free and non-discriminatory trading regime rising.

Mr. Chidambaram said the conclusions likely to emerge out of the Uruguay talks might not be "fair and non-discriminatory" to the developing countries.

He said there was an upsurge in protectionist measures by the advanced countries with anti-dumping clauses being frequently resorted to by rich countries against the imports of developing countries.

Mr. Chidambaram said while market access to exports from developing countries such as textiles and agriculture remained restricted in the rich countries, the developed countries should be "more sensitive" to the developing countries to ensure that the world trade system remained free and fair.

IPRs

The Minister said in areas like intellectual property rights (IPRs) where much was made out of the position of countries like India, the national concern on patents and trademarks was well articulated by India.

He said it was not fair to link India's stand on patents with other areas since countries like Turkey and Indonesia which do not have comparable patent laws enjoyed much greater foreign direct investment.

He said in the area of patents, India's concern in the field of food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals was widely known and India would not compromise on this.

He emphasised India's abiding commitment to free and multilateral trading system and said the recent policy changes bore ample testimony of India's continuous efforts to integrate itself with the world economy.

Answering questions from foreign participants, the Minister made it clear that patent laws would not be altered to suit the conditions of multilateral agencies. He said the cost of medical treatment in western countries was four times higher than in India and as long as drugs are not available at affordable prices, patent laws would not be changed to suit foreign drug companies.

Asked about India's trade relations with the Soviet Union and the independent republics, the Minister said negotiations were in a fairly advanced stage with Central Soviet and other republics.

Trade Blocs

Answering queries on regional trading blocs, the Minister said while India did not create any such bloc, it could not remain blind to reality. In the face of increasing trading blocs, India should also keep the option open to join such forum if it involved increased two-way trade.

In this regard, he said the Association of Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) was more than a bloc since India and most of the countries of APEC had complementarities.

He said before 31 March 1992 he would be in a position to provide quantitative details about foreign direct investment flows into India as a sequel of the liberalised policy.

Finance Minister Meets Press in Madras

92AS0277A Madras THE HINDU in English
2 Nov 91 p 1

[Article: "Inflation Rate Declining"]

[Text] Madras, Nov. 1—"I expect to end this year with a single digit inflation," Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union Finance Minister, said here today.

The Finance Minister, who was addressing a news conference, said that the inflation rate which had been 15.7 percent in September had since declined to 14.7 percent. It would further decline when the balance of payments situation improved.

He said that if the inflation rate came down, "we will reverse the direction of interest rates also. If inflation rate is five percent, the real rate of interest should be not more than five percent."

Dr. Manmohan Singh, replying to questions on what the Centre proposed to do about enforcing fiscal discipline on the State Governments, said that during his meeting with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, she had outlined the measures taken up by the State Government to bridge the budgetary gap. "I assured her that it will be the intention of the Central Government to cooperate with the Government of Tamil Nadu," but he declined to elaborate.

Relaxing import curbs: The Finance Minister said import restrictions would be relaxed in a few weeks when the foreign exchange reserves, now around Rs.[rupees]6,000 crores, increased. He said that when the new Government took over at the Centre, the reserves were about Rs. 2,500 crores. He said that while the trend in revenue collections of Central Excise and income-tax was much better than was anticipated in the

they have not proved effective in deflecting the demographic pull to the heart of the City. Planners will have to give more thought to devising greater attractions for fresh migrants to live and work in suburbs failing which they could be provided easier access through affordable and regular means of public transport. [sentence as published] As an initial step work on Ring Road needs to be expedited and mass rail transit facilities introduced, despite the expenses involved. The ingenuity with which the corporate sector was drawn in to contribute to a City which it has played no mean role in popularising could be repeated for funds.

INTUC Protests Policy on Public Sector

92AS0268A New Delhi PATRIOT in English
23 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] The Indian National Trade Union Congress [INTUC] is piqued with Finance Minister Manmohan Singh over the latter's stand on unviable public sector undertakings.

In a press release in New Delhi on Tuesday, it says several of its leaders and state units have taken a serious view of the Finance Minister's statement that uneconomical public sector units would be closed down.

INTUC's organising secretary N.M. Adyanthaya, who is also the president of the Karnataka unit, has referred to the Reserve Bank report which has put the blame on inefficient management in more than 60 percent cases. He cites the report further to point out that it was less than 2 percent units which turned unviable on account of labour troubles.

The statement quotes Mr. Adyanthaya having urged Mr. Singh to find out remedial measures of sick public sector units instead of thinking in terms of their closure.

The trade union leader has warned the government of joining hands with other trade union outfits to oppose the closure move. He is said to have taken exception to the Karnataka government's move to privatise KIMCO [expansion not given] and the Mysore chrome and tanning units.

Meanwhile, the All India Trade Union Congress of the CPI [Communist Party of India] announced that it would join the protest dharna and gherao of the Finance Minister for his statement.

It said that over 200,000 workers of public sector enterprises are already on the firing line as a result of the proposed closing down of more than fifty so-called sick public sector enterprises.

In his eagerness to appease the IMF-World Bank for getting some loan, the Finance Minister has shamelessly denigrated the public sector, its role and importance in the economic development of the country, it charged.

New Parallel Processing Computer Described

92AS0221A Madras THE HINDU in English
9 Oct 91 p 17

[Text] The National Aeronautical Laboratory [NAL] is ready with its third generation Flosolver, said to be the fastest parallel processing computer in the country. A Mark-III system is to be supplied shortly to the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore where it will be used for monsoon modelling.

The Flosolvers came to be developed to meet the demand for computing power for computational fluid dynamics (CFD) problems of NAL. CFD, as its name suggests, deals with computing gaseous and liquid flows. Run on powerful computers, CFD is increasingly used wherever the shape of structure—which decides the flow patterns around it—is critical. In the aerospace industry, it is extensively used as digitised wind tunnels for the aerodynamic styling of the aircraft body and wings, giving considerable savings in time and money. Since CFD is highly computation-intensive, the more powerful the computer, the quicker can the simulation be completed. Programs that took 45 hours on the Mark-II version can be run in just six hours on the Mark-III.

The Mark-III uses three Intel 1860 processors. The reduced instruction set computing (RISC) 1860 chips are the fastest commercially available processors on the market. With one 1860 acting as the host processor and the other two as slaves, the Flosolver can deliver sustained computing power of 15 million floating point operations per second (MFLOPS). By increasing the number of processors to five and adding more memory, NAL intends raising its rating to 25 MFLOPS sustained (400 MFLOPS peak) by the end of this year. The three-processor system is estimated to cost between Rs.[rupees]25 and 30 lakhs.

Each processor has at present 8 MB [megabytes] of memory available to it as well as high speed direct memory access. NAL is increasing this to 32 MB. The increased core memory would greatly reduce the need to write intermediate data (which can come to 150 MB or more in CFD problems) to disc and thus push up the throughput by over 25 percent, says Dr. R. Sunder of NAL. In addition, the number of processors is to be increased to five by the end of this year. The Flosolver should then be capable of sustaining 25 MFLOPS (with a peak of 400 MFLOPS).

Since the 1860 is only a high speed number-cruncher, communication between processors (which is essential in parallel processing systems) is carried out using a message passing coprocessor. The Multibus-II provides communication at 45 MB per second. The multibus's bandwidth is sufficient to take up to eight processors, says Dr. U.N. Sinha, also of NAL and the brain behind the Flosolvers. (The Flosolvers were developed on a shoestring budget by a team of just four assisted by students). Dr. Sinha hopes that in course of time the number of

Most earthquakes in the Himalayan region result from the friction between the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate. Sixty-five million years ago, the Indian plate collided against the Eurasian plate with the result that the Himalayan massif was thrown up.

The Indian plate is still moving into the Eurasian plate at the rate of 2.5 cm annually.

About 99 percent of earthquakes occur along the boundaries of the crustal plates, the oceanic ridges, transform faults and subduction zones. There are two major seismic belts worldwide—the circum-Pacific belt and the Alpine-Himalayan belt, within which falls the north-east region of India—one of the highly seismic regions of the world.

Earthquakes are classified as shallow if their foci lie at depths of 0 to 70 km intermediate if in the range 70 to 300 km and deep if they occur below 300 km. The world's earthquake activity is heavily biased in favour of shallow shocks, like the one in the Garhwal regions: these release about 75 percent of seismic energy, compared to only about 3 percent in the case of deep events. It is the shallow quakes that cause the most damage.

The site of the Tehri project is unfortunate because a section of the plate boundary that runs near it is part of a 700-km long 'seismic gap'—a region where there is a likelihood of built-up tension in the rocks due to the absence of large recent quakes. This heightens the probability of a major quake.

This seismic gap extends along the Himalayas from Kashmir, where an earthquake in 1905 measured 8.6 on the Richter scale, to Bihar which experienced a quake of magnitude 8.4 in 1934. The October 20 earthquake in the Garhwal region had an intensity of 6.2, but a U.S. seismology centre in Colorado (USA), gave its strength as 7.1. It is believed that this event has not yet released the pent-up stress in the region. Prof. Vinod K. Gaur, the noted geophysicist has opined that the 20 October earthquake may be "preparatory to a major earthquake of magnitude greater than 8."

Misapplied

Will the proposed Tehri dam stand up to a great earthquake? It has been designed for earthquakes of 7.2 magnitude. In April 1980, an expert committee set up by the government of India concluded, using the formula of an American seismologist, James Brune, that the peak ground acceleration in the Tehri region would measure 0.446 g (g is the rate of acceleration due to gravity).

This was within the design specification of 0.5 g.

Mr. Brune later complained that his formula had been misapplied. It had been based on a site in California, where the soft sedimentary rocks would weaken the shock waves passing through them. In the hard rocks of the Tehri region, this attenuation would be much less, so

the quake would be stronger than assumed while traveling from the plate boundary to Tehri. Mr Brune also warned that the large Mahr fault which probably runs directly beneath Tehri might be connected to the main plate boundary and could bring the force of a large quake closer to the dam.

Warning

In a letter forwarded by Prof. Gaur, a member of the expert committee, to the Ministry of Mines, Mr. Brune warned against building a dam incapable of withstanding a peak ground acceleration of at least 1 g—which is twice that allowed in the current design. After a visit to the dam site in December 1990 Mr. Brune affirmed this view.

Meanwhile the government had referred to the question to another 'expert' Mr. Jai Krishna, a former vice-chancellor of Roorkee University, who had appeared on behalf of the government in the case filed by the Tehri Dam Virodh Sangharsh Samiti, Mr. Jai Krishna rubber-stamped the expert committee's decision in September 1990.

When Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Environment Minister in the V.P. Singh Government attempted to scrutinise the decisions rigorously, she was stripped of most subjects in her portfolio. The Environment Ministry gave conditional clearance, but without any resolution of the issues, the government again started work on the project last September.

There has been too little scientific scrutiny of the Tehri project. When the Russians came into the picture in 1986 with offers of technical and financial help, their engineers wanted the design of the dam to be altered to provide for the 8.0 to 9.0 points seismicity of the region, and for a base 400 metres wider than the intended 1,100 metres. This could be done only marginally.

Apart from seismicity, there would be landslips along the 80 km stretch of river valleys to be flooded by the dam waters. The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology states that the rocks of the hills are fragile. The shales could absorb water from the reservoir, causing them to slide down into the reservoir under the pull of gravity.

A study by the Geological Survey of India had also warned that slips would increase because of the erosion caused by the constant rising and falling of the water level in the reservoir. A major slip could push a tidal wave over the top of the dam.

In 1963, a landslide crashed into the reservoir behind the Vaoint Dam in Italy, causing a huge wave to surge over the dam and into the valley below, killing 2,000 people.

A basic prerequisite for a scientific study of a subject is data. This has been sadly lacking in the case of the Tehri project. There is little data on the amount of snowfall in the headwaters of the Bhagirathi, feeding the glacier from which the river flows.

Rao had made it clear that any decision in this regard would be through "consensus."

This sets aside conflicting reports closure of patently unviable sick PSUs.

Prof. Kurien quoted Mr. Narasimha Rao as saying that the interest of workers would not be affected as a result of the changed industrial policy.

He said there need not be any apprehension on this score and that the Government would ensure that there was no human distress as a result of the new industrial policy.

He said the BIFR would examine how best the sick PSUs could be revived and rehabilitated.

He said the credit squeeze was affecting the industrial production and that Finance Minister Manmohan Singh had assured him that very soon the Government would come out with a package to tackle this problem.

He said members at the consultative meeting were appreciative of the economic measures taken by the Government.

Leniency in Regulation for Nonresidents Questioned

92AS0290D Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English
30 Oct 91 p 8

[Text] Going by the relaxation of norms for investment by non-resident Indians (NRIs), it appears that for the government a larger inflow of foreign exchange has become an end in itself. The NRIs have always demanded more concessions than they have been given. Since the industrial policy announced in July permitted foreign companies to acquire more than 50 percent of equity in high-priority industries, the earlier regulations which put a 40 percent ceiling on investment by NRIs naturally had to be relaxed. But by allowing 100 percent ownership by both individual NRIs and overseas corporate bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by NRIs, the government has gone much further. The first question that will be asked by multinational companies is why there should be one set of liberal regulations for NRIs and their OCBs and a relatively more stringent set of norms for them. Another question, one that resident Indians will ask, is whether concern for one's homeland should be rewarded with a premium of a special set of liberalised norms. In any case, the NRI who is genuinely interested in investment is unlikely to be swayed solely by the promise of complete control. What is as much important is the easing of other Central and State Government regulations. The new norms carry with them similar regulations as in the new industrial policy, on financing of import of earnings. As the recent experience of multinationals granted approval by the high-powered Foreign Investment Promotion Board shows, this set of regulations constitutes a deterrent which is not offset by the advantage of majority control. Further, the special permission that will now be granted to NRIs for

100 per cent ownership of hotels and high-quality and expensive hospitals is indicative of the NRIs' areas of interest. Investment in such sectors may bring foreign exchange but they are certainly not high on the country's priorities at present.

If the new investment norms by themselves attract a large inflow of NRI funds, the resources that will be brought in will be essentially black money that is sought to be legalised. The India Development Boards and the gift scheme for NRIs, with their "no-questions-asked" rules, are aimed at attracting, through NRI fronts, black money that is stashed abroad by resident Indians. The new norms go a step further in that direction. Laundered money can now be used to establish and control new enterprises. The proof of success will in any case be in the scale of NRI investments that will result from the liberalised norms. There will be a lot to answer for if there is no substantial set-up in NRI inflows and if what does come in is not directed towards sectors of importance to the economy.

Total Outlay for Third Plan Announced

92AS0256A Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN
in English 27 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Bombay, 26 October: The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, today announced that the total outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan would be Rs.[rupees]792,000 crores at the 1991-92 price level, reports PTI.

Addressing a Press conference after a discussion with the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr. Sudhakar Naik, on the State's proposals for the Eighth Plan and the Annual Plan for 1992-93 at Mantralaya here, Mr. Mukherjee said the rate of investment would be 23 percent per year and the annual rate of saving 78.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The balance of 1.4 percent Current Account Deficit would be met by external borrowings, he added.

He said the public sector outlay would be Rs. 342,000 crores, current outlay Rs. 53,000 crores and private sector outlay Rs. 392 crores.

The State Governments have to play bigger role in this Plan, he said, adding that though the Centre approved it, the National Development Council has to give final approval.

The Planning Commission has set a target of generating 100 million jobs during the next 10 years with the active support of the private and public sector, according to Mr. Mukherjee.

Addressing a seminar on "role of the State in a market-friendly approach to economic development" organized by Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today, he said during the Eighth Plan emphasis would be laid on areas such as power, transportation, communication, agriculture and human resources development.

Company, Ltd. The deal is the fruit of Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana's recent trip to Iran. Marcus Torres, managing director of the Irga group and one of the members of the Brazilian trade delegation that accompanied Santana on his trip, told this newspaper yesterday that Irga will transfer technology and supply special equipment for the transport of superheavy freight for Iran.

"The investment will basically consist of the transfer of this equipment, which is idle today in Brazil," Torres stated. The equipment consists of the so-called "axle lines" [linhas de eixo] and "flatbeds" [pranchas], which replace the trucks that carry normal freight. The "axle lines" and "flatbeds"—with as many as four axles and eight tires per axle—are hitched to the tractor in the number needed, which depends on the weight and dimensions of the freight.

If necessary, Irga will also take trucks to Iran. Torres says, however, that the company is more likely to purchase them in Iran, where "prices are favorable."

With a fleet of 150 tractors that is only slightly more than one year old on the average, Irga has 440 "axle lines" on hand—almost one-third of this type of equipment in Brazil. "We will have up to one-half of this number available when the Iranian market is well positioned," said Torres, who estimates that more than 80 percent of this equipment in Brazil is idle. "And we are not going to have a reactivation of the superheavy transportation sector here any time soon," he added.

"In order for the deal to go forward successfully," Torres said, "the prospects for Iran's Reconstruction Plan will have to take concrete form." The goal of the Reconstruction Plan is to enable Iran to recover from its eight years of war with Iraq, with a total investment of \$120 billion over a five-year period. "But the prospects are good," Torres declared, adding that the opportunities for Brazilian companies to bid successfully on projects in Iran are also good.

One of the potential business partners for Irga in Iran is the Andrade Gutierrez company, which is bidding on the project for construction of the Karun III hydroelectric plant, among other projects. "We would be responsible for the transport of cement and equipment from the port to the project site," he explained.

Torres acknowledges that "Brazil-Iran trade is surrounded by a number of uncertainties that reflect the Iranian way of doing business," but declares that he has discovered a good "vein of ore" for his group. "Nobody in Brazil engages in this type of business," he said. Torres was the only entrepreneur from the transportation sector who traveled with Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana to Iran.

Torres is monitoring the bidding process on other projects for which he also hopes to provide transportation services. As examples he cited the Teheran subway, which has a proposal from the Brazilian General Electric

company to supply 50 100-ton locomotives; seven sugar and alcohol refineries, which may be built by the Dedini/Zanini consortium; the reconstruction and modernization of the oil refineries; and irrigation projects for the expansion of Iran's agricultural area, among others.

Five Companies

The Irga group—with an annual revenue of \$35 million—consists of five companies. In addition to Irga Lupericio Torres, there is the Grancarga Maritima [Maritime Heavy Cargo] company, based in Sao Paulo, which transports heavy cargo along the Brazilian coast with its own medium-capacity, "ro-ro" [roll on-roll off] ship the "Lady Sophie" and one other ship chartered for container transport on the Santos-Manaus route.

There is also the Grancarga Intermodal company, based in Manaus, which engages in the river transport of containers using five rafts and five tugboats on the Manaus-Porto Velho-Manaus route, with two departures weekly from the two termini. "We began three years ago," Torres declares, "and we are the only company in Brazil in the business of transporting containers by river."

There is also Irga Industrial, which manufactures—in Pirituba, Sao Paulo State—special transportation equipment such as trucks with hydropneumatic suspension, cranes, and special hydraulic jacks. And there is the Santa Maria Agricultural and Livestock Company Ltd., with 16,000 hectares of land in Rondonia devoted to cattle raising.

In recent times, as the transportation of superheavy freight slacked off with the completion of large-scale projects (Itaipu, for example), Irga has oriented its activities toward other areas in the "special cargo" sector, in order to maintain its sales volume. It transports medium-weight cargoes of up to 40 tons, such as road-building parts and machinery.

Torres says that in order to maintain sales volume, Irga has had to increase its fleet. He explains that it requires as many as five medium-sized trucks to earn as much as you can earn from one truck designed for superheavy freight.

Renegotiated Oil Contract With Brazil Discussed

92SM0114Z Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 12 Nov 91 p 15

[Article by Rio correspondent Fatima Belchior]

[Text] The most recent negotiations between Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) resulted in a gain for the Brazilian state petroleum corporation. On all the product imported from Iran—current volume 162,000 barrels a day—Petrobras will have 40 days from the date of the issuance of the document attesting to delivery at the point of origin in which to make payment. Over a

Brazilian diplomats say Brazil is being cautious in its dealings with Iran but that the sale of non-nuclear armaments has not been ruled out.

There has been another change in foreign policy, not so much imposed by events like the Gulf crisis as brought about by President Collor's desire to make Brazil part of the First World. Even before he took office, the president had signalled the Jewish community in the United States that this country would support cancellation of U.N. Resolution 3,379 of 1975, which calls Zionism a kind of racism.

Collor once again emphasized that concern this year in a speech to the General Assembly. When he read his speech at the opening ceremonies of the United Nations, the Brazilian decision appeared to have been stated timidly, diplomatic sources in the Middle East noted. The text said that Brazil opposes labels but avoided saying that Brazil would not vote this time the same way it voted in 1975, since it considers that Zionism is not comparable to racism.

"That was consistent with a certain timidity on the part of Itamaraty, which is reluctant to state things clearly, something the diplomats themselves sometimes call 'staying on the fence,'" a ministry source commented.

At any rate, Itamaraty confirms that Brazil will vote against Resolution No. 3,379, which is likely to come up for a vote by the time the General Assembly adjourns in December.

This change in position was applauded by Israel because it made the bilateral relationship more balanced than under previous administrations. Especially under the military governments, Brazil used to condemn the occupation of the Palestinian territories by supporting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 but never took the trouble to make the dialogue less cold and distant.

As became clear during Rezek's trip to Cairo last week, Brazil still considers Israel's acquisition of new territories by force to be inadmissible, but at the same time maintains that it will vote against the Zionist vote at the United Nations.

Differences Between Iran and Iraq

"Iran will not be another Iraq," says an Itamaraty source, comparing the differences between Brazil's old relationship with Iraq and its current dealings with Teheran. In the first place, the "countertrade" mode is no longer being used. The term refers to compensated trade in which petroleum is the product that drives the operation. During the era of exchanges with the Iraqis, Banco do Brasil and Petrobras sustained losses in order to ensure that Brazilian firms made profits. Furthermore, that scheme fostered corruption in the now-extinct Interbras. Today, trade with Iran proceeds on the basis of payment for oil within 40 days and immediate payment for Brazilian products, thanks to a side letter [preceding two words in English] signed last July by the

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Petrobras. There have been problems in compliance with the terms of the side letter, but Rezek's mission was able to get around the difficulties.

Another difference, the diplomats explained, is that in their dealings with Iran the Brazilian firms are unwilling to send a large contingent of Brazilian workers into Iranian territory. In writing the contracts, they pay attention to the freedom of their personnel to come and go. They also provide for training Iranian manpower in Brazil, for later assignment to the projects underway in that country.

Finally, another distinction being made is that the government is cautious and does not intend to provide nuclear technology to Iran.

Foreign Policy Concerns

In Teheran, Rezek tried to persuade the Iranian government to hire Brazilian companies to execute a part of the reconstruction program that is worth \$120 billion over a five-year period. Brazil hopes to derive an advantage from its imports of 162,000 barrels of oil a day.

In Cairo, the minister signed a joint communique with his counterpart Amre Moussa that specifies, more emphatically than Itamaraty had previously, the need for Israel to return the territories to the Palestinians in exchange for peace and an end to the Arab boycott against Israel.

That has always been the policy advocated by Brazil, but it was pursued more timidly. The fact that U.S. President George Bush, Israel's chief ally, has succeeded in suspending a \$10 billion loan to the Shamir government, despite the Jewish lobby [preceding word in English] and the pressure from the Senate, in order to force it to comply with Resolutions 242 and 338, has left Brazilian diplomacy even freer to ask, in unison with the Egyptians, for "land for peace" [preceding three words in English].

Israeli diplomatic sources told this newspaper that relations between the two countries are improving and moving toward a "gradually positive status." Even so, it has been 20 years since Brazil has sent a high-level representative to Israel, while Labor Party leader Shimon Peres was here in 1987. Israel Defense Minister Moshe Arens is scheduled to visit Brazil, but not at the invitation of Itamaraty.

At any rate, when it backed the Madrid conference, Brazil sensed more flexibility on the part of Israel, which at least agreed to sit down at the table to negotiate with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Syria.

Precinct Four became suspicious of a passenger bus while patrolling Khorramshahr Street. During a search they took 2.8 kg of opium from the driver. Meanwhile two passengers tried to flee, and along with the bus driver were detained by the security forces and taken to the central station.

Continuing, he added: At first the detainees tried to gain the cooperation of the patrolling officers by tempting them with an offer of 104 grams of gold, but with the alertness and concern of the region's dutiful officers, this was added to the case file as evidence.

He also said: With the arrest of two of the gang's members, an extensive investigation began to identify and arrest the gang's other members and also to locate the centers for procuring and distributing the narcotics. Within an hour two of those who had fled were recognized at a residential home and arrested. After the extent of the gang's activities hauling hundreds of kilograms of narcotics and distributing it over the city of Tehran was determined, with the cooperation of judicial officials and obtaining a warrant, the homes of the gang members as given in addresses taken from those arrested were searched.

Continuing his comments, the commander of the Northern Tehran Security Zone discussed the gang's center of operations. He said: During the search of a house of Shahrudi Street done by the Regional Narcotics Distribution Force, more than 204 kg of opium packed to be waterproof were obtained. In this connection the owner of the house and his wife were arrested and taken to prison on charges of cooperation and participation.

Brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi discussed the nature of the gang's activities and how it distributed and spread the narcotics. He said: These people took shipments of narcotics from Kerman to Tehran after skillfully stashing them in the air conditioners of buses and trucks and gathered them in the aforementioned house, so that their known colleagues would offer to buy the various substances in accordance to their desirability and quality and then sell them by the kilogram.

Continuing, brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi said that the driver of the bus received 200,000 rials in wages for every kilogram of narcotics. He added: One of the best ways of encouraging some bus drivers to cooperate with corrupt elements and smugglers of opiates is the high fees paid to them by the gang members.

Continuing, the commander of the Northern Tehran Security Zone discussed the confessions of the gang members to transporting and distributing more than 300 kg of opium in the city of Tehran. He noted: The cases of the accused are still being investigated, and details on a number of other defendants named in the case in various cities are being sought.

Continuing, he discussed the arrest of seven individuals in Tehran involved in the distribution of narcotics. He said: In view of the importance of reports received from

the people and conducting the necessary investigations concerning the demand of the hezbollah public for a relentless campaign against the merchants of death, it was learned that a 50-year-old individual was distributing narcotics in Tehran's Emam Hoseyn Square. In the same connection, regional security forces entered into phony transactions with him, in various stages purchased 7.5 kg of opium from him, and at the critical time arrested him along with six other people.

In subsequent investigations it was determined that despite his great wealth and property, including 10 stores each valued at 100 million rials and 20 residential units in the Afsariyeh area, he was involved in the distribution of opiates among the youth and the capital of the revolution.

Continuing his talk before a group of news reporters, brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi discussed recent activities in the North Tehran Security Forces District in the arrest of evil persons and trouble makers. He said: In view of the reopening of the schools and the need for a persistent campaign against trouble makers and insurgents, since the first of the month of Mehr this year [23 September] 554 people have been arrested and turned over to the judicial authorities in connection with disturbing the public order. Likewise, since the implementation of the Security Forces Consolidation Law, 358 kg of narcotics, 340 stolen automobiles and 60 motorcycles along with stolen assets valued at about 235.197 million rials have been found and confiscated, and 777 thieves have been arrested and turned over to the judicial authorities in this connection.

In conclusion, he thanked and praised the personnel of the precincts in the Northern Tehran Security Zone for their work. Addressing all boutique and clothing store owners, he said: Henceforth, when the sale of tawdry clothing and accessories for the purpose of discrediting the sacred image of the government of the Islamic Republic is observed, the justification of the owner not knowing about it will not be accepted, and they will be dealt with harshly.

West Tehran Security Zone Commander Appointed

92AS0129E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] By order of Brigadier General Commander Abdollah 'Oqaba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Security Forces, Colonel 'Ali 'Olia and Colonel Guard Tarvand were appointed commander and second commander of Western Greater Tehran.

In announcing this, the Public Relations Office of the Greater Tehran Security Forces added: Those residing in West Tehran may report any complaints, criticism or proposals pertaining to the security forces by calling that region's command office at the number 900341.

powerful position in the area, it must reclaim its position and fateful status by putting the economic sector into motion and strengthening the nation's economy.

Continuing this session, the minister of petroleum answered various questions from the seminary students and clergy concerning the Ministry of Petroleum's programs on the world market, the presence of Iranian specialists in Kuwait, and the possibility of the private sector being active in the oil industry.

Mr. Aqazadeh was asked if the role of OPEC will weaken on the world market in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis. He said:

OPEC has undergone crises at various times, but due to the world's economic dependence on this organization and the importance of the role OPEC has played in stabilizing oil, OPEC has maintained a strong footing throughout all the crises of the 70's, 80's and 90's. Its decisions as the only organization connected with the Third World nations having economic power have had an impact on the international economy, and it will maintain this position. My own inference is that currently OPEC's role remains the same in the international market.

The minister of petroleum then discussed the importance of the presence of Iranian specialists in Kuwait and their role in capping runaway wells. He said: With the creation of work opportunities for Iranian experts and with the outstanding achievement they have made with respect to efficiency, meaning that the Iranian experts have had the best record, in some cases putting out burning wells in eight hours, Iranian experts have shown the people of the world that Iran is the only nation in the Persian Gulf region that manages its oil industries with domestic experts.

In answer to a question about the possibility of private-sector activity in the oil industry, Mr. Aqazadeh noted: In the area of building refineries and oil products, because of the high levels of financial ability and expertise needed by these industries, the private sector is not able to operate in this sector. On the one hand these sectors are considered mother industries, and transferring the ownership of these sectors requires Majles legislation and law, and with regard to oil reserves also, there is no question about turning the matter over to the private sector, because the oil reserves are considered national capital, and the people own them entirely. Apart from the above, however, we are willing to turn over to the private sector some small units such as small motor-oil-making units, gasoline pumps, and some of the oil distribution sectors. In the petrochemical area also, we can turn units with up to \$250 million in capital over to the private sector, and we now have nine such projects in mind, but so far the private sector has not been able to enter into these activities, and again it has been government organizations such as the Industries Organization, the Foundation for the Oppressed, and the Islamic Propaganda Organization who have gotten involved in

the industry in some way, but the necessary readiness has yet to be seen in the private sector. The question however, is that they should be active to the extent permitted by the Constitution. Concerning the involvement or the lack thereof by foreign specialists in the Ministry of Petroleum's projects. He said: Currently all phases of exploration, drilling, production, export, and sale of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil are being carried out by domestic specialists.

Foreign experts are involved only as contractors who have signed contracts with the Islamic Republic of Iran to complete part of the oil industry projects, and after they carry out their contracted projects and deliver the work to the Ministry of Petroleum, these companies will have no presence of any kind in the oil industry sectors, including the petrochemical industries.

In conclusion, the minister of petroleum discussed the goals of the Esfahan Conference and the reason for its attendance by American companies. He said: The Esfahan Conference was held with the aim of bringing about face-to-face talks between oil producers and consumers, and it was an innovation in this area, and the attendance by the American companies at this conference is also because of our work relationship with these companies, because there has never been a year when we did not sell oil to America. Even when the American economic embargo of Iran was in effect, we sold oil to American companies. The relationship we have with these companies is a working relationship, not a political relationship, and the fact that a newspaper printed some things about this is not relevant, because the quality of the Esfahan Conference was high in terms of the number of participants and their role in the international oil market, and the world has praised this initiative of ours. In any case, there must be criticism to improve the work.

Zamzam Company Faces Closure Due to Pollution *92AS0162F Tehran RESALAT in Persian* 30 Sep 91 p 12

[Text] Social Department—Following repeated complaints from the residents in the vicinity of the Zamzam Company, which have been continuing since the year 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975], a warning to this company has been issued by the Sixth Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran.

The public relations office of the Sixth Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran reports that based on this warning, officials of the Zamzam Company must either create a sewage system and eliminate the environmental hazards or move the company to another place.

Based on this report, since its very inception (1336 [21 March 1957-20 March 1958]) the Zamzam Company has brought complaints from the public and residents of the Azadi Street area for failing to observe health standards, polluting the environment, and threatening the health of citizens. It has been given serious warnings

production has resulted in a dazzling increase in the national income. [passage omitted]

Last year the Sarcheshmeh copper complex produced more than 94,000 metric tons and the figure is expected to rise to 120,000 tons this year. Copper exports rank third in nonoil exports behind carpets and dry fruit. Iran has earned \$54 million from these products in the first half of this year.

The extraction of copper—which has a high level of purity—also has a complete group of byproducts. Iran, despite its location in the copper belt and having the second largest mine in the world, has not been able to capitalize on this industry. The current methods of extraction are far more complicated and expensive as compared to former methods. Lack of technology and a proper budget spawn numerous difficulties in the production of the country's minerals, especially copper.

The Five-Year Plan, which envisaged the attainment of a capacity of 450,000 metric tons, requires advanced techniques with experienced specialists in this area so that the country's minerals may be tapped to the maximum.

On the other hand, we know that Iranian soil, because of its distinctive geographical location, has an abundance of valuable minerals that can serve as considerable backing for industrial advancement in the coming years.

The necessary steps have not been taken to discover and extract more copper reserves—apart from the Sarcheshmeh copper. There are no precise figures on the extent of the copper deposits or a definite program for their extraction. We hope that the country's officials will take swift measures for the discovery and extraction of all the reserves of this valuable mineral.

New Managing Director of KHORASAN Appointed

92AS0222B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, deputy director of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ghazali was appointed managing director of the newspaper KHORASAN.

The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation reports that the text of the order is as follows:

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hoseyn Ghazali (may his life be long):

In view of your admirable characteristics and knowledge, and your useful experience in cultural affairs, you are hereby appointed managing director of the newspaper KHORASAN.

It is hoped that with the critical mission of the press in clarifying various aspects of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and preserving the revolutionary

spirit and the Hezbollah nation's quest for martyrdom in continuing the struggle against world imperialist plots, with inspiration from the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Emam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), and with the cooperation of committed intellectuals and writers, you will manage this newspaper in a worthy manner in the best interest of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the framework of the press laws.

Dye Companies To Be Relocated

92AS0162G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] Esfahan—RESALAT correspondent—In enforcing the Environment Improvement Law and to transfer polluting industries in the environment from the urban and rural areas to designated areas, all the traditional dyeing units in the village of Jushfan will gradually close their former sites and be transferred to new sites. There are 14 of these dye units.

Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul Train To Begin Operations

92AS0160E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Oct 91 p 14

[Interview with Engineer Sadeq Afshar, deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] Economic division. The Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul passenger train will officially begin operations on Tuesday, 16 Mehr [8 October]; and next week, specifically, 23 Mehr [15 October], passengers can depart for Istanbul and Ankara.

Engineer Sadeq Afshar, the deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made this announcement in a press, radio, and television interview with reporters, stating the goal of operating the Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul train as the creation of better communications between the neighboring countries and also facilitating travel for people, with attention to the problems and limitations existent in international transportation by buses. He also said: As a result of the emphasis of the ministers of roads and transports of Iran and Turkey in the Mordad [23 July-22 August] meeting of last year, this train will begin operations. By activating the Razi border for the entry and exit of train passengers, all three railroad crossing borders, including Jolfa, through the Tehran-Moscow train, and the Mirjaveh border, through the Koviteh-Zahedan train, will be active.

Concerning the procedure to buy tickets for this train, he said: The ticket is prepurchased one month ahead of time, one way, in rials. Also, passengers must purchase their return ticket from the Turkish railroads in Istanbul and Ankara in Turkish lira.

management and revitalization of the destroyed forest areas and also by making use of advanced technology, is estimated at 10 to 12 million cubic meters annually. The commercial forests in the northern part of the country at the present time cover an area of 1.9 million hectares. So far, for about 1.1 million hectares of it, an implemental project has been prepared. Timber production from the forests in the northern part of the country last year was 1.7 million cubic meters. This figure is expected to increase to 2.3 million cubic meters in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. At the present time, 700,000 hectares of the prepared implemental projects are active, and a large portion of the implemental projects is being transferred to the private sector and the forest-dwelling cooperatives. In the continuation of this interview, Fallah referred to the programs of the national forestry and pastures agency as well as forest planting and the creation of green belts and pointed out: The level under forest planning before the Islamic revolution was 43,000 hectares annually and since the victory of the Islamic revolution, 160,000 hectares. But this future this year will reach 100,000 hectares. According to Engineer Fallah, the level of production of saplings this year is 140 million, of which 20 million will be produced by the private sector.

Tire, Aluminum Industries Seen as Vital for Growth

*NC1011191591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0440 GMT
10 Nov 91*

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid a one-day visit to Saveh to inspect the Kaveh industrial town's plants and production units and to be briefed on the system of industrial towns and the significance of the tire and aluminum plants by industrial town officials.

Kaveh industrial town covers 2,200 hectares and is situated 120 km southwest of Tehran. It was built on the basis of the 1352 [year beginning 21 March 1973] agreement in 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986] with more than 100 million rials. Some 300 plants are to be built in each of the first and second phases of this project. Only the first phase of 150 plants is currently operating.

Kaveh industrial town consists of four industrial groups—steel industries, textile and clothing industries, chemical and cellulose plants, and construction and mining. This has a noteworthy impact on the country's economic growth.

Kaveh's Alumpars Plant is unique in the country with its production of plain and colored aluminum sheets used in the country's food and packaging industries. The tire

manufacturing plant with its nominal output of 40,000 tons per year has been able to meet a large part of the country's needs.

In general we can say that aluminum and many of its by-products are of special significance in world industry because of their light weight and low melting point. They are used a great deal in the car, aircraft, helicopter, and ship industries and especially in the military industries. Aluminum is now placed next to the world's basic materials—oil, iron, and copper—and it ranks second in usage after iron.

In view of its high value and the employment possibilities it offers Iran, this product can be of great significance in attracting manpower. The emphasis placed on this product in the first five-year plan led to an improvement in its quality, so much so that during the past two months aluminum was listed as an export metal on the London Stock Exchange. Forecasts predict that aluminum production will increase from the current 120,000 ton to 220,000 tons by the end of the five-year plan.

Parallel with this, the large tire manufacturing plant plays an important role together with Alumpars factory in the country's economic development. Transportation of international cargo over land boundaries and the storage of goods in various parts of Iran speak of the importance of tires in the expansion of intercity and international relations. Iran carries 5 million tons of cargo over the country's various borders. Increased tire production will not only set the wheels of the country's economy into action, but will also lead to economizing in foreign exchange.

On the whole we can say that the significance of industrial towns is that they will be able to attract manpower, reduce unemployment, and increase nonoil exports. These ends can be achieved by gathering various industries in one spot.

Increased industrial plants in the country's first economic development can be achieved by increasing the number of industrial towns, which will encourage high-quality investments by the private sector. According to some economic experts, the multirate system of foreign exchange in the country inflicts a serious blow on domestic production. This important issue calls for accelerated action by the government and officials in stabilizing the country's economic situation. Meanwhile, our country has rich aluminum resources and investments are needed in its exploration and technology to prevent imports and to help use our own expert force.

The president's visit to Saveh was aimed at studying the problems faced in production and in the expansion of industrial towns. It is hoped that this visit will overcome existing problems as soon as possible since the necessary potential for the growth of industry and industrial towns exist to a sufficient degree in the country. But this needs more government attention in attracting errant capital.

These are among the points exporters should pay attention to. The country's transportation network also plays an important role in exports.

Comprehensive and long-term planning, determination of an export strategy, and better use of the country's relative advantages in production can help gain access to markets and help the country's economy develop and flourish.

Mazandaran Antinarcotics Activities Detailed

92AS0162E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Babol—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent—Through the efforts of the political ideology section of the Security Forces of Mazandaran and Babol District, officials of this force met with the people of the city of Babol at that city's congregational mosque.

At this meeting, attended by the commander of the Mazandaran Province Security Forces and province and city officials of the political ideology section of the security forces, problems and issues were studied and questions from the people were answered concerning the antinarcotics campaign.

It is worth saying that at the end of this meeting the commander of the Mazandaran Province Security Forces discussed the activities of these forces in the area of the antinarcotics campaign.

He said: Since the security forces were consolidated, 6,846 people have been arrested, and 403 kg of opium, 8 kg of hashish, 8 kg of heroin, 2 kg of opium juice, 6 kg of burnt opium, 69 kg of grass, 74 passenger cars, one minibus, four trucks, 47 motorcycles, 32 hunting weapons, eight sidearms, and 232,323 packages of cigarettes were taken from them and confiscated.

In conclusion he emphasized the organization of a seminar on the antisocial corruption campaign, attended by the appropriate officials in the province, concerning security forces efforts to deal with degenerate Western corruption in Mazandaran Province.

Narcotics Seized in Khorasan

92WD0061U Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 91 p 9

[Text] In an armed clash between Khorasan security forces and narcotics smugglers, 520 kg of opium, 1 kg of heroin, and 5 heavy and light weapons were confiscated in the Saleh Abad area of Torbat-e Jam. In this clash, which took place in the heights of Chah Osman of the Saleh Abad precinct of Torbat-e Jam, a large smuggler caravan was destroyed as the result of heavy fire by security forces, and the merchants of death used the cover of night to flee across the border, leaving behind the aforementioned narcotics, five weapons, 1,200 rounds of ammunition of various kinds, four RPG-7

rockets, 200,000 rials in cash, and 10 horses. In this clash a soldier from security forces was martyred and a smuggler was destroyed.

Official Details Plan To Control Addicts, Smugglers

92WD0061Z Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] News Service—The Project to Monitor and Control Smugglers and Addicts has been put into force in Tehran. Based on this project, after their release from prison these people are required to report to the Monitor and Control Unit of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security District on Azadi Street.

Mr. Khalil Hariri announced this at a press conference around noon yesterday. He said: With cooperation obtained from judicial officials, henceforth after their release from prison smugglers and addicts will be led to this office to fill out special forms, and in their free time, which might be weekly or monthly, they will be required to report to this office.

The chief of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security Zone said the aim of this project is to control and supervise addicts to keep them from falling back into the trap of addiction and also to get their cooperation in identifying and arresting other merchants of death.

According to him, to get maximum control over addicts, after their release from prison and getting information about their situation, their homes will also be inspected, even in the form of surprise and sudden visits.

He emphasized: Smugglers and addicts who do not report to this office after release will be dealt with harshly.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Hariri, chief of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security Zone, discussed the activities of this office since the consolidation of security forces (from 1/15 to 6/31/1370 [4 April-22 September 1991]). He said: In this period officials have broken up 60 procurement and distribution networks and confiscated more than 2 tons and 400 kg of various narcotics, mostly hashish and opium.

He said: In this connection 721 narcotics smugglers have been arrested, and based on the Government Interests Discernment Assembly Law, most of them must be executed.

He added: A leader of one of the destroyed gangs was named Mehdi Darab, and in this connection, with the arrest of 15 members of the gang, 600 kg of hashish were confiscated.

Noting that this individual is also one of the evil persons in the West Tehran region, Mr. Hariri said: This gang did a large part of the hashish distribution in Tehran, and the case is being investigated. Continuing, he noted that since the consolidation plan began, 7,856 addicts have

than the PPP government. Even a blind man can tell the difference between the two governments.

Even now, the two powerful blocs of our national politics are the PPP and the Muslim League. If the democratic system prevails, then the Muslim League, now known as the IJI, can confront the PPP. Perhaps this is the reason that, in the recent JI public forum at Lahore's Mochi Darwaza, Professor Abdul Ghafur had zealously asked the audience if they were afraid of any political party or worried about its government. It appears that he knew deep down that the only alternative to the present government was the PPP government. The weakness of the present government would be considered the strength of the PPP. Thus, he was preparing the audience for the shock.

The affairs of the nation are not the same as playing with dolls, and we cannot set up a wedding party every day. Our national leaders and political parties should form the habit of thinking seriously. They should try to find solutions to the problems facing the nation. The PPP is not a better alternative for the IJI governments. The leaders should understand that just referring to the fear of the PPP is not enough to maintain their hold on the government permanently. While we do not condone embracing the PPP to apply pressure, we cannot praise the IJI's efforts to stay in power by using the opposition of the PPP as a crutch.

The IJI government should start implementing its election promises. The prime minister should constitutionally and legally keep his promise of making Koranic law the supreme law of the nation. This way, the trust in the government will be maintained.

Nuclear Program Claimed Vital to Security

92WP0046W Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
24 Sept 91 p 10

[Article entitled, "Pakistan's Nuclear Program: Guarantor of Regional Peace"]

[Text] According to a newspaper report, the United States has agreed to accept Pakistan's nuclear program on an "as is" basis which means that Pakistan should retain all that it has prepared so far in the nuclear field but should proceed no further. Moreover, it should not convey its nuclear technology to any other country and sign the NPT [nonproliferation treaty] without waiting for India to sign the treaty. Reportedly, the United States is prepared to restore the suspended aid if Pakistan accepts these three conditions. Negotiations on this basis between Pakistan and the United States are expected to start in October. Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue has always been that in view of India's nuclear preparations it is essential for Pakistan to have an nuclear deterrent. As matters stand, Pakistan is not able to defend itself with conventional weapons against India's conventional military strength because Pakistan's resources do not allow it to maintain large ground, naval

and air forces and to buy the latest armaments. Compared to Pakistan's, India's resources are unlimited. Moreover, after detonating an nuclear device in 1974 India has joined the nuclear age and more than a dozen Indian installations are busy night and day building nuclear weapons. According to the personal report of the former chief of the CIA, more than ten nuclear bombs have been built. India has a large store of enriched uranium which it can use to construct forty to a hundred nuclear bombs. Obviously, in the face of nuclear power, Pakistan cannot defend itself empty handed. Nuclear power has become an inescapable necessity for Pakistan. If the United States can understand that Pakistan needs an nuclear deterrent to defend itself and that such a deterrent can bring stability to the region, then it is the duty of the United States to treat India and Pakistan even handedly. If the U. S. Congress is ignoring India's nuclear program and exempting it from the Pressler amendment, then its announcement of restrictions on Pakistan is sheer bias and discrimination and against the internationally established rules of justice and fair play. It has been explained to the United States on several occasions that Pakistan's nuclear program is a peaceful one, that Pakistan harbors no aggressive designs and that Pakistan has never been and has no intention of becoming a colonial power. But Pakistan certainly wants to protect itself from becoming the target of aggression of a power with imperialist, colonialist and aggressive designs. Hence Pakistan has adopted an nuclear program as a deterrent. Pakistan's nuclear policy is a national policy as well because it was followed by past governments in spite of their differing political ideologies. Nevertheless, the opposition is using the nuclear program as an issue. The cochairperson of the People's Party borrowed the words of retiring U. S. ambassador Oakley the other day and said, "There is no need for us to go beyond a certain limit." Malik Qasim, the leader of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] has also suggested that if the United States is willing to renew the terms of the 1959 agreement under which Pakistan's defense needs would be met, then the matter should be given consideration. The problem is that if the government accepts U. S. terms as suggested by the opposition, then the same opposition will raise a hue and cry from Karachi to Khyber that the government has sold out Pakistan's interests. Someone should ask the opposition as to why there is any need for the United States to renew the 1959 agreement. According to the latest reports, it is the Indian press which is spreading the propaganda that if Pakistan accepts U. S. terms on the nuclear issue, the United States would provide Pakistan with a defense umbrella against India. The question is that in view of the fact that during the visit to the United States of the Indian army's chief of staff an agreement was reached for a wider defense cooperation between the two countries, what need is there for the United States to sign an anti-India agreement with Pakistan? Pakistani politicians should not ignore the interests of the country and the nation for the sake of opposing the government. Pakistan's nuclear program is an inescapable necessity for its defense. If the United States is willing to talk on

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